

32-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW He's back and he's angry

56-PAGE MAGAZINE Coolby the pool **SUMMER SWIMWEAR**

Proposal to cage

England football

fans is scrapped

Rare antelope sacrificed for Europe's rich and fashionable

A RARE breed of antelope is in By ANNE HANLEY, GLENDA danger of becoming extinct because the animals are being killed in their thousands to fuel an illegal trade in one of the world's most expensive mate-

A shawl, made from shahtoosh which comes from the underbelly of the Tibetan antelope, or Chiru, can cost more by police in Mayfair just over a than £11,000. The antelope has to be killed to secure the raw

COOPER and JOHN LICHPIELD

wool, which is then hand woven over several months.

The shawls can be bought in rials, favoured by rich women. fashionable boutiques in Rome and Paris, and are said to be on calico. The price was £1,000. sale in Britain - a consignment worth £300,000 was seized year ago. Dealers also advertise the material on the Internet.

The Independent wa terday offered a scarf said to be made from shahtoosh in the back room of a tiny shop in central Rome. An assistant unlocked a tall cupboard and pulled out a bundle wrapped in unbleached

Mr Rocco says there is no shortage of people willing to Italy, along with Britain, is pay high prices. "It has become one of the world's major mara status symbol. If you're going kets for the banned wool, acto make a splash at the first night cording to Massimiliano Rocco of La Scala, a shahtoosh shawi of World Wide Fund Italia. is pretty much de rigueur."

How an endangered animal became a fashion accessory

In Paris, the owner of a boutique selling other Kashmiri products said: "There is a demand for shahtoush, sadly, amongst women in high society in France. I have no absolute proof that a market for shah-

things which makes me believe that it does, not in shops but in more private ways."

We have every reason to believe the trade goes on in France, as it does in Britain and many Western European countries," said John Sellars of the Geneva-based United Nations agency which enforces the international convention on trade in endangered species. "Shah-

forcement problems, up there look like an ordinary shawl." alongside tigers and elephants." Sites on the Internet openly ternational at the World Wide

there have been high-profile raids on shops in London and Paris in the last couple of years. Hilal Ahmed Hakim of Uzama Arts, in Delhi, confirmed that shahtoosh shawls could be available: "Yes, shah-

toosh is banned but we can ex-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

PLANS TO cage English sup-

porters at Monday's World Cup

match against Romania were

scrapped yesterday following

strong opposition from fans.

football's ruling bodies and the

The decision was hailed as

a victory for common sense last

night after the French author-

ities were advised that English

fans inevitably equated fencing

with the Hillsborough tragedy

Police in Toulouse and the

CFO, the French World Cup or-

ganising committee, wanted to

erect steel fences two metres

high in the Stade Municipale to

prevent English supporters

A decision on whether to

put perimeter fencing in place

was to have been made today,

but it was prought forward fol

lowing condemnation of the

plan by Mr Blatter, the English

the opposite effect," said Mr

Blatter. "If you put up fences,

Alain Bidou, the Prefect of

you turn the fans aggressive."

the Haute Garonne region, with

"Erecting fences would have

FA and supporters' groups.

in which 96 people died.

head of FTFA, Sepp Blatter.

and STEVE BOGGAN

offer shahtoosh shawls, and

100 shahtoosh shawls were seized in Hong Kong .

toosh was being sold blatently in Hong Kong and it was likely that shawls were being passed on to Europe. "The trade is very very secretive." she said. Last December, more than

whom the final decision rested.

had earlier indicated that he opposed fencing when he said:

Incidents involving hooligans

have not taken place at games.

We should not penalise ordinary

English fans in possession of

David Mellor, chairman of

the Government's Football

Task Force, welcomed the de-

cision. "This is very encourag-

ing," he said. "I am glad that

common sense has prevailed." Simon Inglis, editor of the "Guide to Safety at Sports

Grounds", said: "It was an ab-

surd idea in the first place.

The advent of closed circuit

television means that booli-

gans do not cause trouble inside

grounds because they know

The FA earlier urged Mr

they can be easily identified."

Bidou to keep fences out of the

Toulouse for Monday's match

and while there have been no

reports yet of any trouble,

groups of CRS anti-riot officers

have reportedly been patrolling

the streets as part of the city's

high profile policing policy,

World Cup, pages 28-32

adopted since Marseilles.

37,000 capacity stadium. Up to 10,000 English sup-

porters are expected

valid match tickets."

Bobbie Jo Kelso, of Traffic In-

Fund for Nature, said that shah-

Fury over Swiss Nazi gold offer

By Louise Jury

THREE MAJOR Swiss banks brought the bitter dispute over Nazi gold to the brink yesterday with a \$600m (£360m) "best offer" for a final global settle-

The move was greeted with tens of thousands of Jews fighting for compensation for assets that the Swiss failed to the banks have decided to fight return at the end of the Second

Faced with a potential billiondollar lawsuit, Credit Suisse Group, Swiss Bank Corp and the Union Bank of Switzerland - with total assets of more than \$120bn - began talks two months ago with the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

All sides agreed to keep the talks secret, but claiming the WJC was in "dramatic violation" of the confidentiality agreement, the banks yesterday issued their "best offer" of \$600m. They said they would not consider "unfounded and excessive" demands for more money and accused lawyers and Jewish representatives of "seriously jeopardising" the possibility of a settlement. There has been speculation that demands totalling more than \$1bn had been made against the banks.

The banks joint statement said: "By all legitimate criteria, this is a fair offer. The banks view this offer to be at the upper limit of what can be justified, based on the facts and circumstances." Rainer Gut, chairman of the Credit Suisse Group, said

it was their final word. But there were immediate signs that the brinkmanship could backfire. Avraham Burg, chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation that links the WJC with other Jewish bodies, said the amount

was "robbery and an evil deed. hang over the talks, which were The three banks ... hid the stolen property for years and now are trying to earn interest."

Ed Fagan, a New York lawyer spearheading a class action for 31,000 Holocaust victims or their families, said: "When they are prepared to anger by representatives of make a full offer we are prepared to consider it."

The surprise offer suggests back in the face of continuing criticism. After initial denial of the scale of the assets which banks failed to return, they eventually admitted fault and placed around \$70m in a fund set up in Switzerland for needy Holocaust survivors.

But a mood has developed in



Switzerland that the "Nazi gold affair" has gone too far. A threat -which could still be carried out by the financial comptrollers of several American cities and states to withdraw investments from Swiss banks has provoked widespread anger.

Some Swiss politicians believe: a large payout by big banks would encourage demands against the Swiss central bank, which handled gold looted by the Nazis, and against the government, which turned back thousands of Jewish refugees at its borders. A question mark must now

set up by Stuart Eizenstat, the US Undersecretary of State. If they collapsed, lawyers could push for a class action to be heard as quickly as possible at the federal court in Brooklyn, New York, where the claims

> Rainer Gut said: "If the other side walks away ... that would be the end of negotiations of a settlement and we would be back to square one.

> Eldred Tabachnik QC, pres ident of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who have no direct involvement in the American class action, nevertheless welcomed the banks' offer as a "step in the right direction". But he said: "Whilst this is a sizeable sum, representing a sizeable admission of guilt, it is clearly up to the claimants ... to decide whether it is sufficient to con-

stitute a full global settlement." The \$600m figure would not include repayments to victims or their families from any dormant war-time accounts still held in Switzerland and identified in the current round of independent auditing. The banks say they have included what it would cost if the case went through the courts.

Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said last year that Switzerland should be paying billions of dollars in restitution to settle

Switzerland has been accused of two separate but related "crimes" - of accepting gold and other assets from Nazis when it must have known they were looted, and of putting insurmountable blocks in the way of people attempting to reclaim assets sent for safe keeping. However, a recent report in the United States showed Switzerland was not the only country guilty of doing so.



Animal or vegetable? A sculpture in London's Covent Garden

John Voos

Television mogul is youngest-ever life peer

TONY BLAIR creates Britain's By Fran Abrams youngest ever life peer today, among 18 new Labour mem-

bers of the House of Lords. Waheed Alli, the 33 year-old managing director of a television company, is believed to be worth around £10m. He is friendly with Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, the Secretary of State for was Shadow Health Secretary. to keep calling him "Melvyn".

Political Correspondent

Northern Ireland, and Peter Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio. Mr Smith received a researcher and the loan of computer equipment from Mr Alli's Planet 24 company, which makes Channel 4's The Big Breakfast, when he

Among the other well-known new Labour peers are Melvyn Bragg, the broadcaster, Chris Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods: and Tom Sawyer, the general secretary of the party, who has announced he will

step down later this year. Mr Bragg said he would speak about arts, broadcasting and Cumbria, but urged people

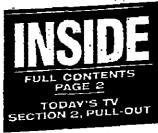
Tom Sawyer said he was look- nour last year by his former ing forward to supporting the Labour Party in the second Two Labour MEPs, Chris-

tine Crawley and John Tomlinson, also received peerages. Major's chancellor between 1990 and 1993, finally received power" when he was forced to his seat as a Conservative peer resign, is also seeking a seat in after being rejected for the ho- the European Parliament.

boss. Current Conservative leader William Hague, who was Mr Lamont's Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Treasury, looked more kindly on him. Mr Lamont, who de-Norman Lamont, John scribed Mr Major's government as "in office but not in

very interesting place I shall continue to fight the single currency," he said.

Also among the Conservatives' five new peers are Sir Tim Bell, known as Margaret Thatcher's favourite PR man, and Peta Buscombe, vice-chairman of the party and a South Oxfordshire district councillor



HOME

Lord Neill, appointed to clean up standards in politics, is to represent Dame Shirley Porter in court PAGE 2

POLITICS

MPs are expected to vote by a margin of two to one on Monday to lower the age of consent for gays to 16: PAGE 9

FOREIGN \$5bn in aid to victims of Chernobyl

nuclear disaster has gone missing PAGE 13

BUSINESS

Lloyd's names claim corporate members were trying to buy them out of the market "on the cheap" PAGE 20

SPORT Jouty Rhodes hit a century as South Africa scored 360 in their first innings in

the Second Test



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ROH gets out the begging bowl The threat by the board of the Royal Opera House to close the House down permanently may backfire and push the Opera House into further crisis.

Dobson attacked over surgeons

The president of the Royal College of Surgeons yesterday accused Frank Dobson, the health secretary, of ig-noring the principles of justice in demanding tougher penalties for the three doctors at the centre of the Bristol heart surgery disaster.

Foster father denies murder

Deputy headmaster Sion Jenkins stood before a jury yesterday and told them he was not the murderer of his 13-year-old foster daughter, Billie-Jo. Page 11

FOREIGN NEWS

Earthquales causes floods

Earthquakes have caused cracks to appear in the Pamir mountains of eastern Tajikistan where a huge lake threatens to flood hundreds of square miles page 14

Eskimoes wait for the goldrush

The mining companies are exploring Greenland and the Eskimos are preparing for an oil and gold rush. A culture that has survived for thousands of years could be wiped out. -

> **BUSINESS NEWS** PAGES 19 - 21

UBS to sell UK fund manager UBS, the Swiss bank, is looking to sell PDFM. its UK

fund manager, in a deal worth up to £1.8bn. Page 20

Help for Yen set to continue

The dollar continued its fall against the ven as Japan said both the US and Japan would continue to intervene in the foreign exchange markets

BT in talks with AT&T

BT is believed to be in detailed negotiations with AT&T. the US long-distance giant. It has also held talks with Bell Atlantic, the local operator.

SPORTS NEWS
PAGES 22 - 31

Nigeria head for second round Victor Ikpeba (acute on e) scored the only goal of the game as Nigeria qualified for the second round of the

World Cup by beating Bulgaria Kournikova out of Eastbourne

Anna Kournikova pulled out of the Direct Line Insur-

ance Championships at Eastbourne because of a hand injury but said she expected to be fit to play at Wimbledon

WEEKEND REVIEW

32-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Fergali Keane:

A court that is not independent of the major powers, that cannot operate without the assent of the country it wishes to investigate, is in danger of becoming a toothless ir-

Richard Pells:

Could the 20th century be more accurately described as the European instead of the American century?

Profile:

On his appointment as prime minister, Zhu Rongji vowed that, "No matter what is awaiting me, whether it be landmines or an abyss, I will blaze my trail." And, as millions of Chinese are discovering, the trail-blazing Mr Zhu is doing just that.

Gardening 12-13
Outdoors 14-15
Shopping 16-18
Games 19-20
Travel 21-32
Concise crossword 19

Cryptic crossword, Weeekend Review, page 32

Standards chief to defend Porter

LORD NEILL, the man appointed by Tony Blair to clean up standards in public life, is to represent the former Westminster Council leader, Dame Shirley Porter in her bid to overturn a multi-million pound surcharge imposed on her for

the homes-for-votes scandal.

Lord Neill confirmed that he would be representing Dame Shirley in the Court of Appeal but he insisted that he was following "the cab-rank principle" whereby barristers take cases as they emerge. "[Members of the Barl do not pick and choose their cases on the basis of the popularity or unpopularity of the case or the client," he said.

A Downing Street spokes-man indicated that there was no concern at No 10 about Lord Neill's acceptance of the brief.

"It is nothing to do with the Government whatsoever," he said. "Lord Neill is a barrister. Whatever briefs they [barristers) take have no reflection at all on their personal views." The spokesman added: "I

don't think anyone has called into question his probity or ability to perform his duties as chairman of the committee in any way. There's no reason to believe that situation has altered.

But news of Lord Neill's involvement in the case has out-Dame Shirley's opponents. Andrew Dismore. the former leader of the Labour group on Westminster Council and now Labour MP for Hendon, raised the issue in the Commons yesterday, saying it was a "clear conflict of interest".

He later said: "Lord Neill's job is to look into issues of honesty in local as well as national government and Lady Porter's ordered to repay the council action has been characterised

Home Affairs Correspondent

as the greatest act of corruption in local government history.

"I think that irrespective of Lord Neill's personal qualities, which are above suspicion, the question must be raised in anybody's mind as to whether it's appropriate for him to do both

The £27m surcharge con-troversy resulted from Dame Shirley's and officials' and colleagues' responses to a poor showing by the Conservatives in May 1986 local elections. In the summer of that year,

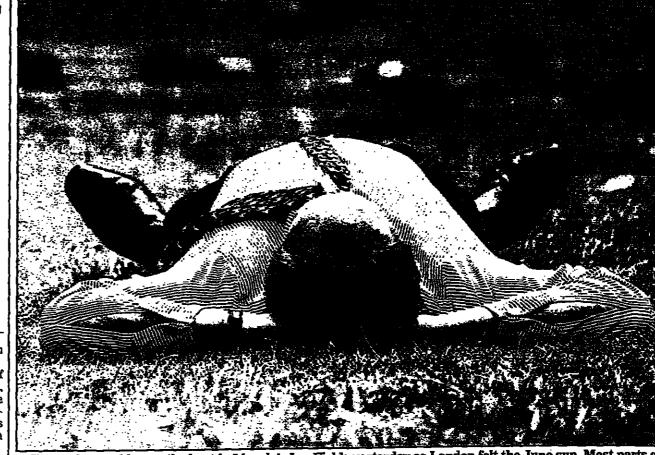
Dame Shirley and a trusted team began developing a strategy which became known as the homes-for-votes gerrymandering scandal.

She and her colleagues earmarked council houses and flats for sale to young professionals with a view to filling key wards with people likely to vote Tory rather than homeless people or those on waiting-lists who might vote Labour.

District auditor John Magill found six councillors and four officers guilty of wilful misconduct and imposed a preliminary surcharge of £21m.

A final report in May 1997 found Dame Shirley and five others guilty of wilful misconduct and "jointly and severally liable" for a surcharge of In December, a panel of High

Court judges upheld the auditor's decision and said that Dame Shirley and David Weeks, ber former deputy, had "lied to us. as they had done to the auditor, because they had the ulterior purpose of altering the electorate". The pair were



A City worker soaking up the heat in Lincoln's Inn Fields yesterday as London felt the June sun. Most parts of the country are expected to be warm and humid today, with the risk of downpours Jeff Moore/National Pictures

Growth hormone victims win £300,000 damages

DAMAGES OF up to \$300,000 By IAN BURRELL each were awarded yesterday to six people who said they had suffered psychiatric illness from their fear of developing Creutzfeldt Jakob disease the human form of mad cow

The six had all been treated with contaminated growth hormone as children to increase their stature.

Delivering judgment at the High Court sitting in Lincoln, Mr Justice Morland said the claimants had "rational fears" about one day "succumbing to a ghastly lingering death from CJD".

He said: "No amount of psychotherapy or counselling can obliterate the truth. Each plaintiff remains indefinitely at risk of CJD which is inevitably fatal and not subject to amelioration or treatment."

The six, who are to receive between £3,500 and £300,000,

will pave the way for up to 40 other similar cases to claim compensation. The successful claimants

were teacher Paul Andrews, 32, from Putney, south-west London who is to receive around £300.000; former factory worker Neil Scanlon, 36, from Ebbw Vale. Cardiff, who is to receive £160,000; jockey David Lockhart, 27. from Newmarket. Suffolk, who was awarded £13.000; nurse Philip Johnston. 25, who is to receive £26.000 and his sister Claire, 29, both from Staffordshire, who is to receive £16,000; and chef Justin Parkes.

27, from Essex who was awarded £3.500. None has yet contracted

CJD-but Mr Justice Morland said: "For an individual plaintiff the risk may be remote or, if it eventuates, may not occur for decades. But it is a real

risk." An earlier hearing was Research Council about the told between 1959 and 1985 nearly 2,000 children in the UK whose growth was stunted ment because of a growth hormone deficiency were treated with a hormone taken from the pitu-

itary gland of coroses. Of the 2,000, 27 people have gone on to develop the fatal condition and 25 of them have died.It is not known how many more of the 2,000 will go on to develop CJD which causes victims to lose control of their movements and mental

The human growth hormone programme was ended in May 1985, after several children who had been treated in the United States died of CJD.

In July 1996, Mr Justice Morland ruled that the Department of Health was negligent in not heeding the

warning of Dr. Alan Dickinson,

who in 1977 told the Medical

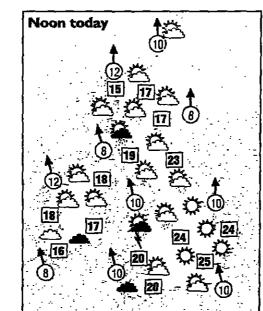
risk of contracting CJD from human growth hormone treat-

The judge said it was only natural that those at risk would worry if they suffered any episode such as dizziness or faintness - fearing it was the first symptom of the

In his judgment, he stressed that the plaintiffs had had to prove that, on the balance of probabilities, they had suffered a genuine psychiatric illness caused by becoming aware of the risk of CJD.

It was not enough to be unset, distressed or worried by the risk, he said.

"A recurring theme is the sense of betrayal and anger Each plaintiff trusting their parents who, in turn, had trusted their clinician and had undergone a long period of unpleasant therapy."



OUTLOOK

Scotland, northern England, Wales and south-west England will be warm and muggy with hazy sunshine but thundery showers may break out. Northern ireland will be warm with sunny spells with the risk of a shower in the eas Remaining parts of England will be not and humid with plenty of hazy sunshine and a slight risk of a local downpour, especially towards the evening

NEXT FEW DAYS

It will feel less humid in the north and west on Sunday with sunny spells and the odd shower. In the south and east it will be musey with hazy sunshine and local thundery downpours. Monday will be a fresher day across the UK with sunny pells and only the odd shower in the west. A spell of rain is likely for Tuesday with the rain not reaching the south-east of England until nightfall.

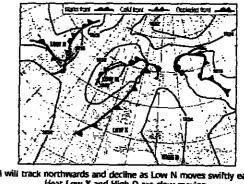
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SUN & MOON June 24 WEATHERLINE

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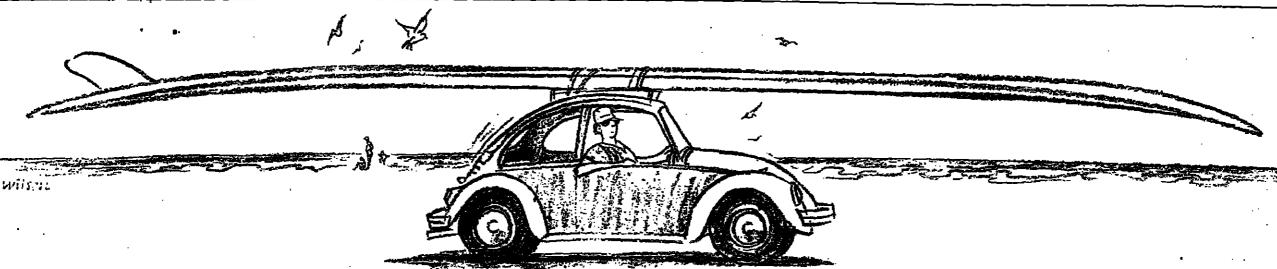
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ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Heat Low X and High D are slow moving.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

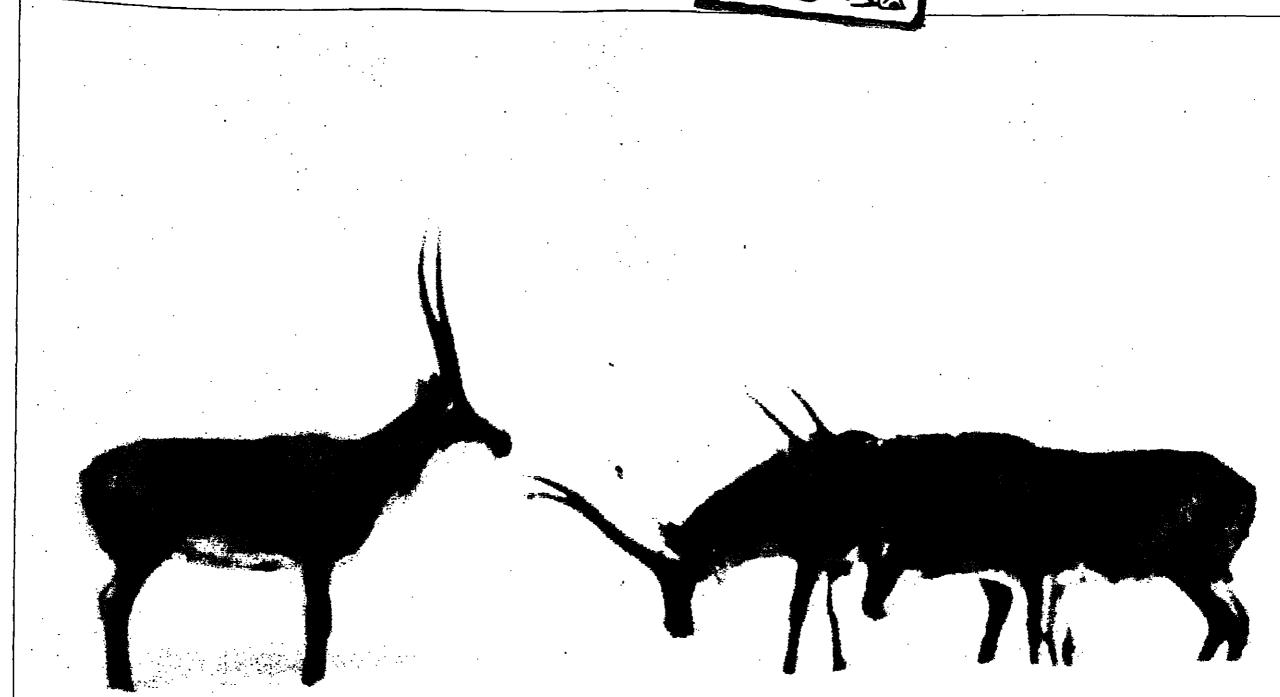


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These animals are dying out. And all because the lady loves shahtoosh



Shawls made from shahtoosh, the trade in which is leading to a steep decline in the numbers of Tibetan antelope (top) Main picture: Wildlife Conservation Society

Tibetan antelope wool is one of the world's most sophisticated status symbols. The problem is that the animals are slaughtered to produce it

holiday to restore their eyesight. It is the world's most sophisticated emblem of wealth: weight for weight, the wool is more valuable than gold or platinum, and in a Mayfair store that shawl which cost the weaver his eyesight can

cost the consumer £11,000. The burgeoning trade in shahtoosh is leading to the extinction of the remaining herds of Tibetan antelope, or chiru, from which it comes.

But although the trade has been illegal for 22 years - that £11,000 shawl was one of 138, worth more than £300,000, seized in a Metropolitan Police raid on "Kashmir", in Mayfair central London, in February 1997 - it remains legal in the Indian state on which it is cen-

Kashmir lent its name to shabtoosh's humbler but ecologically friendly relative, cashmere, and it is the immensely skilled artisans of the state who spin and weave both wools.

Last week, confronted by legal moves from the Wildlife Protection Society of India to shut down the trade for good, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Ab-

dullah, was defiant. "As long as I am the chief minister," he declared, "shahtoosh will be sold in Kashmir."

The campaign to ban the trade, he went on, "maligns the people of the state", and he averred that there was "no evidence of Tibetan antelope being reduced in number or their being shot to acquire wool for shahtoosh". Shahtoosh means "king of

wool" and for centuries it has been one of the most prized items in an Indian trousseau. But for a long time confusion has reigned about its provenance. Even today a web site in the United States propagates the notion that "twice a year [the Tibetan antelope] moult, rubbing their fleece against rocks or bushes. Wind blows the hair into little clumps. Tibetans and Nepalis trek through the mountains for weeks to return with little handfuls of wool."

This bucolic scene is worthy of Lewis Carroll's "aged, aged man a-sitting on a gate". ("He said, 'I search for haddock's eyes among the heather bright, and sew them into waistcoat buttons in the silent night...'") But it is pure invention.

As Dr George Schaller, director of America's Wildlife Conservation Society, discovthe bleak and arid Tibetan plateau in the past few years, chiru are trapped and shot, usually during the winter months, when the undercoat,

in which shahtoosh can be obtained. Tibetan herdsmen pluck the wool from the hides of the dead animals to sell to local dealers. "In the courtyard of one such dealer," Dr Schaller re-ported in 1988, "were sacks of wool ready for smuggling into western Nepal and from there to Kashmir, where the wool is

woven into scarves and shawls." Shahtoosh has been culled, spun and woven in this way for centuries. But in the past 10 years it has finally arrived in the West as the ultimately opulent tabric. The huge new demand. has been answered by ruthless and large-scale killings of chiru by organised gangs, driving on to the Tibetan plateau from the Chinese side and shooting the chiru from vehicles, killing as many as 500 animals in a hunt.

The Chinese estimate that between 2,000 and 4,000 chiru are poached every year. Enforcement of the ban on killing, to which China is a signatory, is especially difficult because of the huge area of the plateau, its remoteness and the bitter cold of the winter months when most hunting takes place.

There have, however, been impressive Chinese successes. In 1996 the director of the Arjin Shan Reserve, Song Binqian, received information about a gang of poachers at work on the In their possession were seven rifles, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 1,100 antelope car-

casses. The leader of the gang

was jailed for seven years. But the poaching goes on, and the number of chiru is in steep decline. When the British explorer Captain CG Rawling travelled through Tibet in 1903, he wrote afterwards of seeing "as far as the eye could reach

... thousands upon thousands of doe antelope with their young. We could see in the extreme distance a continuous stream of fresh herds steadily approaching: there could not have been less than 15,000 or 20,000 visible at one time."

Today there are few herds of more than 2,000 animals, and in 1995 the remaining chiru population was estimated to be about 75,000. Dr Schaller fears that, if large-scale poaching is not halted, the chiru "will within a few years be reduced to

An additional, sinister twist to the decimation of the chiru is its connection to the illicit trade in tiger bones. This was uncovered in 1993 when three shahtoosh traders confessed to investigators in India that tiger bones and skins were bartered for raw shahtoosh, yielding vast profits on both sides; on the Kashmiri side, it was claimed,

tragic remnants."

Another trader revealed that for one bag of tiger bones - the result of poaching in India's game reserves, and immensely prized in Chinese traditional medicine - he would receive two bags of raw shahtoosh.

The Wildlife Protection Society of India, which was founded by the wildlife photographer and film-maker Belinda Wright in 1994 in response to the new menace from the Chinese medicine trade to India's dwindling number of tigers, has been fighting the shahtoosh trade every way it can.

According to Ms Wright, who was born in India of British parents, the people with most to lose from a successful choking off of the shahtoosh trade are about a dozen wealthy busi-

The artisans who spin and weave it would continue with their customary trade in cashmere, which is produced from a domestic goat.

And for those who hanker for filigree shawls but recoil from the massacre shantoosh entails, she recommends "shahmina": a wool that has been developed recently in India, with virtually the same weight, texture and warmth as shahtoosh, produced from pure With no bloodshed involved.

HALF time

escape from the World Cup with Hertz

(If you want to spend a bit longer away from the football this summer, Hertz have an offer to help you get away from it all. For example, rent a car in Maiaga for only 298 a week, then after the first week you only pay £7 for each additional day's rental. To find out about other destinations. call your local travel agent or Hertz 24 hours a day on:

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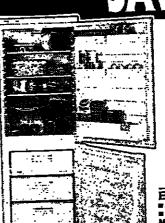
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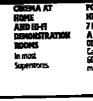
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IN HOME



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AWARD



Children of Holocaust return to give thanks to Britain's forgotten Schindler

By GLENDA COOPER

ON HIS finger, Nicholas Winton always wears a gold ring. It is inscribed with a text from the Jewish Talmud: "Save one life, save the world." It is the same text that grateful Jews inscribed on a ring for Oskar Schindler, the German industrialist who saved 1,000 Jews from the Nazis.

Through Steven Spielberg's film, Schindler became world famous. Yet Mr Winton's achievement is equally great. He was a British banker whose courage and persistence meant that more than 600 Jewish children escaped from the Nazis in Czechoslovakia and made their way to safety in Britain.

Last night, some of "Winton's children" arrived again in Britain, nearly 60 years after they were plucked to safety from Prague as war clouds gathered over Europe. On Thursday, the Czech embassy held a "Thank You Britain" reception where Mr Winton, now 89, was reunited with some of the children he had helped save.

Among them was Vera Gissing, one of the children on "Winton's List". She has written a book, Pearls of Childhood, which recounts her experience of escaping from Prague.

"His incredible efforts ... resulted in 664 children escaping Hitler's clutches," she declared. "I was one of them. Not all but most of us were Jewish and had we remained in our own country we would have been bound not for Britain but for a concentration camp and an almost certain death ... To him we owe our freedom and life."

Mr Winton ensured that these children were transported out of Prague and found homes in Britain at a time when politicians were unconvinced there was to be a war.

In December 1938, Czechoslovakia faced a flood of refugees and political enemies of the Third Reich who had fled to Prague after the occupation of the Sudetenland. Asked by a friend of his on the British Committee for Refugees, Mr Winton went to Prague. His task, in the aftermath of the pogrom of Kristallnacht sparked by a Goebbels' speech - was to compile a list of the most vulnerable children. Hearing of him. Jewish parents formed long queues outside his office overnight. "It seemed hopeless." he said



Vera Gissing (above left), who was among more than 600 children (above right), mostly Jewish, on 'Winton's list' of escapees

they were the most urgent. How could I or anyone else in London choose the most urgent cases?"

armed with his list, to convince British guardians could be found for British politicians that war was imminent. "The politicians in England didn't realise what was going on. It was the time of appearement and ... have photographs of all of the chil-

years later. "Each group felt that it was difficult to convince them that dren, sure that the sight of these I was right and they were wrong." The government stipulated that

Czechoslovakian children would be Mr Winton returned to London admitted only if financially able everyone, with a guarantee of £50 each (more than £1,000 today).

Mr Winton's masterstroke was to

young victims of war would convince potential guardians. "If someone wanted a child, they wanted to know what they would look like," he said. "It was efficacious and quick. You could show people a few pic-Among the children he saved

tures and then they could see."

Reisz and Dagmar Simova, cousin of the Czech-born United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. It was not until the Eighties when one of the children contacted Mr Winton through the sheltered homes charity Abbeyfield Homes. which the former banker worked for. Other reunions followed. "It was very, very emotional," said Mr Winton. "It is always very emotional when I see them. I cannot go to the jamboree this weekend but I saw them on Thursday night at the em-

bassy and it was very very good." Mr Winton has been honoured by Czechoslovakia and Israel for his work, but he has yet to be honoured in Britain, which many of the "children" are now pushing for."He has saved the major part of my generation of Czechs," said Ms Gissing. "That is an incredible achievement. It was a mammoth task."

"I was in the right place at the right time. And it was obvious that something had to be done," is all Mr Winton will say. "It is good to get a chance to do the right thing."



The banker who never forgot

NICHOLAS WINTON was born in 1909 and from his early life seemed destined for a life in business. He became a banker and worked on the Stock Exchange before the war.

After his work in Czechosłovakia and then war duty, he returned to britain and his work as a banker and a businessman. However, he never gave up pursuing humanitarian projects and

sought the return of gold stolen from Jews by the Nazis. He married and had three

children. but his own life was touched by tragedy – the voungest of his three children had Down's syndrome and died in childhood.

When he reached his fifties, Mr Winton took early retirement and helped found the sheltered housing charity Abbeyfield, and also devoted

extensive time to the charity Mencap. In 1983, his charity work was rewarded by an MBE for services to the community.

Mr Winton had been 30 when

he went to Czechoslovakia to belp evacuate children at risk from the Third Reich, But afterwards, he put what he saw as a wartime gesture behind him and never told his wife or three children that he had organised the Prague rescue.

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Opera House ultimatum angers Smith

THE THREAT by the board of BY DAVID LISTER the Royal Opera House to close down the House permanently if its £15m grant is not doubled looks likely to backfire and push Covent Garden into fur-

A senior source at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport told The Independent vesterday that the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, would not sanction a doubling of the grant. Mr Smith was also said to be furious at the board's effort to pre-empt the report by Sir Richard Eyre into the future

of opera in London That is being published on 30 June. It is likely to call for better funding of the arts as well as cheaper ticket prices and wider access to Covent Garden when it reopens after rebuild-

ing work next year. On Thursday the board, under new chairman Sir Colin Southgate, wrote to Mr Smith and to the Arts Council which funds the Opera House saying the board would close it down permanently if the grant was not doubled. They added that there was a danger of trading insolvently.

Arts News Editor

Yesterday a DCMS spokes man said: "No Arts Council client can seriously request a doubling of its grant without that request being subject to

the most minute scrutiny." A senior source at the department later added that Mr Smith was not going to "have a gun put to his head" by the Opera House board, and there was no chance of extra money being given to the Arts Council for a doubling of the grant.

The DCMS and Arts Council will also be looking at the legality of a closure now that the House has benefited from £78m of lottery money towards its redevelopment costs. The ROH is back in a state of

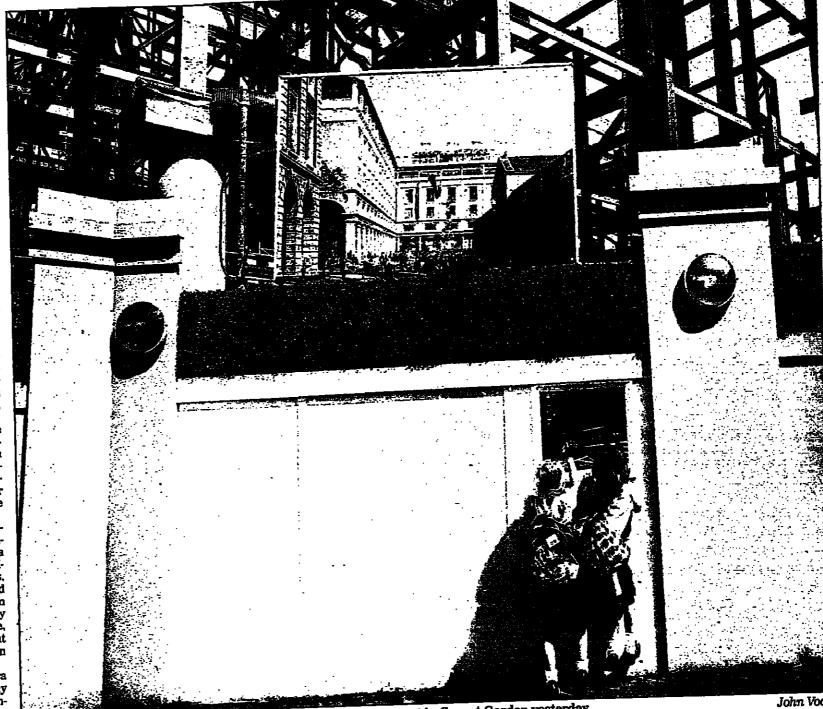
crisis as public as when the Culture Select Committee published its devastating report last year saying it was a "shambles" and would be better run by a "philistine" with business sense than the then management. That report led to the resignations of chairman Lord Chadlington, chief executive Mary Allen and the entire board.

But the new board, under Sir Colin, who is also chairman of EMI, is not only threatening to close the place; its relations with the culture secretary have sunk to a low ebb and it faces the possibility of industrial action by the Royal Ballet and a protest by its back-stage union.

Eighty-one dancers at the Royal Ballet were voting on industrial action, likely to be an overtime ban, over pay. They re-ceived a below-inflation increase of 1.5 per cent last year and have had no pay increase this year.

In a separate protest, 39 administrative staff in the technicians union Bectu passed a vote of no confidence in the director of external relations, Judy Grahame. Sir Colin and acting chief executive Pelham Allen are known to be highly supportive of Ms Grahame. who has long experience at the BBC and with two London

One insider at the Opera House said staff yesterday were in a state of shock, wondering what the House's and their own future would be.



Children peer into the site of the Royal Opera House redevelopment in Covent Garden yesterday

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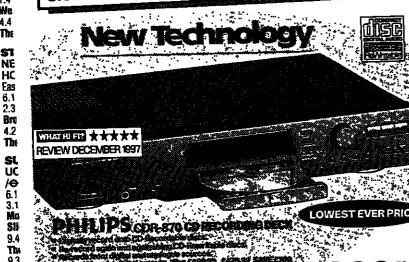
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There's a Great Deal going on

False imprisoment claims to cost £24m

THOUSANDS OF former prisoners could be paid up to a total of £24m compensation for being held in jail too long, following a Court of Appeal ruling yester-

The governor of Brockhill Prison, Redditch, Worcestershire, was ordered to pay 25vear-old Michelle Evans 55,000 damages for false imprisonment after she served 59 extra days as a result of confusion over calculating release dates.

A spokesman for the Prison Service, which is struggling to cope with a record jail population, admitted yesterday: "Claims for damages will probably be in their hundreds."

The case stems from a ruling in November 1996 that the method used for calculating inmates' release dates was unlawful and that hundreds of prisoners, going back six years, had spent too long behind bars.

The problem affected prisoners given consecutive sentences where the time they spent in custody awaiting trial was not correctly deducted.

Following that decision, hundreds of inmates were re-

By JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

leased. The number eligible for compensation is as yet unknown - there are at least 40 cases lodged with the courts, but the total could reach 4,600. If the average payout is £5,000, that would mean the Prison Service would have to

find an extra £24m plus legal costs - at a time when it has been pleading with the Home Office for extra re Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, recently sanctioned an extra £43m to pay for more

cells. Now he could be forced to further increase funding. The Prison Service is considering whether to appeal to the House of Lords against yesterday's judgment, which also reversed an earlier ruling

that governors could not be held liable to pay compensation. Ms Evans had been jailed for two years for terrorising an 18year-old stranger in a Cardiff street, tearing off the young woman's engagement ring and

two gold chains. She was convicted on

charges of burglary, robbery

and assault.

The three Appeal Court judges were headed by Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf who pointed out the governor of Brockhill could not have released Miss Evans earlier than he did because he was carrying out his duty to apply the law as it then stood.

But it was a "deeply embedded" principle of English law that a person imprisoned titled to damages.

Until yesterday no compensation was payable because it was held that the High Court decision was not retrospective.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that some 800 inmates a year over six years served too long in jail.

Paul Cavadino of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders added: "The Treasury should make the necessary resources available so the Prison Service does not have to cut spending in other important areas in order to pay compensation."

In Brief

Christie's spot-check fury

LINFORD Christie launched a "continuous verbal assault" on two drug testers who visited him at a training camp in Lanzarote just months before he won Gold in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the High Court was told yesterday.

Christie was asked for a urine sample in a 10pm spot-check by the Sports Council. But his former coach Ron Roddan, 67, told the hearing the sprinter was angry because the testers had spent all day on the beach. The libel case continues.

Crocodile found in London park

AN "EXOTIC LIZARD" found wandering around in a park was put in a terrapin tank where it promptly ate the terrapins. A subsequent examination at London Zoo revealed the "lizard" was in fact a baby Caiman crocodile which could grow up to 8ft long in its wild habitat.

It was discovered by Robert Gwyther from Downham, South London, at his local park. He presented it to his friend who decided it would be a novel addition to his tank with the fatal results, said the RSPCA.

Divorce award up by £700,000

A FARMER was ordered to pay his former wife another £700,000 vesterday after she challenged his £1m lump sum one-off settlement when their 33-year marriage ended in 1996. Pamela White, 62, has been unhappy with the amount she received following her 33-year marriage to Martin White, 61. The three Appeal judges agreed the cash lump sum she was awarded should be increased to £1.5m and she should be allowed to keep £200,000 of assets from their joint farming business.

Millennium parking angst

VISITORS TO the Millennium Dome may have to park their cars 20 miles away. Hundreds of spaces will be made available at Kempton Park racecourse in Sunbury, and at Wembley Stadium. The rest of the journey will have to completed by public transport. The precise contents of the dome will be kept secret until it opens at midnight on 31 December 1999. Peter Mandelson, minister in charge, said he wanted to maintain "an element of surprise for visitors".

Winning dinner ladies cook on

EIGHT DINNER ladies and a lollipop lady who won £1.8 million in the National Lottery have said they intend to continue working. The syndicate, at the William Morris school, Banbury. is the seventh set of school workers to have won a jackpot.

£400m student grant call

By Ben Russell **Education Correspondent**

GOVERNMENT ADVISERS yesterday called for a £400m programme of grants to offer young people a second chance of gaining an education, and condemned the current lottery of discretionary grants awarded by local authorities.

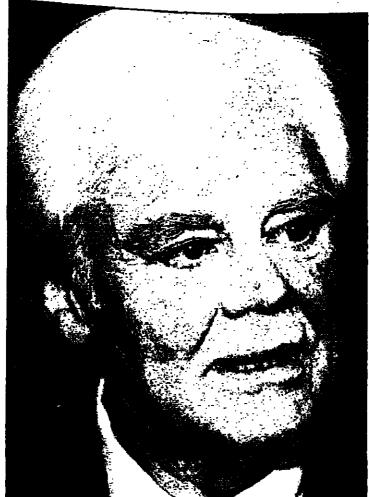
They said a national system of grants for teenage college students was vital to give school leavers from poor backgrounds the opportunity of further education or training at college.

At present, grants for further education students vary considerably from one local authority to another. Many councils have abandoned their discretionary grants altogeth-

Proposals put to David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment. include doubling the current £200m council grants budget to give all sixth-formers free travel to college, and offering £300a-year grants to those on Income Support.

Graham Lane, chairman of the DfEE's advisory group en student support, said ministers should also consider scrapping child benefit for 16- to 19-year-olds to release an extra £600m to help students.

لمكذا من ألاصل



Tony Booth, leading light of the breakaway hard-left clique

Booth's old guard lead Equity putsch

real comedy if it were put on televi- Arts News Editor sion. Tony Booth, the Prime Minister's father-in-law and once the scouse git in BBC's Till Death

Us Do Port, is organising a hard-left clique to overthrow the moderates of the actors' union Equity. Determined to stop him is an impressive cast list of the old guard.

They include the playwright Sir David Hare, actors Sir Derek Jacobi, Timothy West, Juliet Stevenson and Sheila Hancock, and comedians Dawn French, Roy Hudd, Roger Lloyd Pack and Julie Walters. Their names are on an advertisement in today's issue of The Stage supporting Equity's moderate ruling group.

Denouncing Booth openly is former EastEnders actor Michael Cashman, who wants to join the Labour National Executive Committee and become a Euro MP. He has started his campaign in novel fashion by rubbishing the Prime Minister's father-in-law as "a table thumper who wants to overturn attempts at modernisation".

And trying to keep the peace is

Baidrick, the lovable nincompoop from the BBC's television series Blackadder, although in the guise of his alter ego actor Tony Robinson, Equity vice-president - tipped as the next president when the election results are announced next month.

Booth has been a member of Equity's ruling group for four years, but has now formed a breakaway group to oppose modernising plans. In his election address yesterday he attacked the ruling moderates for "their sell-out on residuals, their inept handling of the recent television commercials dispute, and risking collective funds on the Stock

Some see the elections, contested by five main groups, as a microcosm of Labour Party in-fighting of the Eighties. The Representative Conference Group - the equivalent of new Labour - which includes Tony Robinson and the other celebrities, has ruled Equity since 1994. The softleft reforming faction replaces the

general meetings with a new-look epresentative conference.

The Independent List, with Tony Booth, is "an anti-slate" made up of people who promise to act and vote independently if elected. It is disillusioned with current policies, particularly the abandonment of residual payments for cable and satellite repeats.

Act for Equity is a right-of-centre grouping which controlled the union until 1994 but has now been marginalised: Tory MP Roger Gale is one of its representatives. Equity Left Alliance is a socialist grouping of long-standing which seeks to repeal anti-trade union legislation.

A fifth slate, as yet unnamed, is a single-issue group campaigning for restoration of the closed shop. They urge solidarity with the late Dame May Whitty, "the amiable, dotty, wobbly-chinned secret agent in Hitchcock's film The Lady Vanishes", who with other actors in the late Twenties put Equity on its feet, refusing to act with anyone who was



Juliet Stevenson, supporting the moderate ruling group

Anger at call to prisone ban heart cost & surgeon

THE PRESIDENT of the Royal College of Surgeons yesterday accused Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, of ignoring the principles of justice in demanding tougher penalties for the three doctors at the centre of the Bristol heart surgery

Sir Rodney Sweetnam said Mr Dobson's comments had been made without "having the benefit of listening to eight months of evidence". His comments put heart surgeon Janardan Dhasmana, 58, who is heart surgery on adults, in a

"virtually untenable position". The General Medical Council ruled on Thursday that Mr Rodney's remarks. "I am ap-Dhasmana was guilty of serious professional misconduct and banned him from performing heart surgery on children for three years.

Senior heart surgeon James Wisheart and former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, Dr John Roylance, were also found guilty and struck off the medical register following the inquiry into the deaths of 29 children and babies at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

None of the three doctors was materially affected by the decisions, however.

Speaking hours after the verdict, Mr Dobson said the GMC had made a mistake. On Thursday he told BBC2's Newsnight: "I think under the circumstances and from what I know of the evidence, if they struck off the two doctors they should have struck off all three."

He added that he intended to use whatever powers he had to remove merit awards paid to Mr ter training and improved mon-Wisheart and Dr Roylance. In Mr Wisheart's case, his A merit award was worth almost £40,000 at the time of his retirement earlier this year. Dr Roylance also

By JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

had an A merit award at the time of his retirement in 1995. am surprised at Mr Dobson's comments. Before making judgement one needs to know the facts and the evidence which took the GMC eight months to hear. I am surprised anyone would pass judgement without

Sir Rodney said he did not believe that the merit awards still permitted to carry out held by the two retired doctors should be removed.

> Parents of children who died at Bristol were bemused by Sir palled," said Maria Shortis, spokeswoman for the Bristol Heart Children Action Group. "You cannot maintain an award given for worldwide contributions to cardiac surgery to one of the most incompetent surgeons in the country. Mr Wisheart is only famous for his disastrous record ... He did not stop when he should have."

> Sir Rodney said over four million operations were performed each year and patients could have confidence in their surgeons. "We have to be careful not to extrapolate from the tragic events at Bristol. It was very much a failure of local auditing procedures," he said.

Sir Rodney's remarks ran counter to the GMC's judgement, which listed more than a dozen issues concerning the practice of medicine and surgery that "will have to be addressed by the medical profession". They included the need for clearer standards, bet-

itoring of performance. Mrs Shortis said: "They are desperate to present Bristol as a local problem. Damage limitation is what they are up to."

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Cup medal to be sold

come the first member of England's 1966 World Cup side to sell his winner's medal. The 58-year-old, who played at right back during the 4-2 win against West Germany, said that he needs the cash to boost his pension fund.

The sale is expected to fetch between £60,000 and £80,000 at an auction by Christie's in tional Football Museum, which

GEORGE COHEN will today be now a property developer, said "I would be lying if I said I wasn't upset to lose it, but I didn't earn enough money as a footballer to retire on T hope whoever finally gets it is able to display it to the public; it is an important part of our heritage."

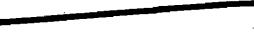
It is feared that the medal will be bought by a private collector. Kevin Moore, director of the Na-

The former Fulham star, made a bid for it.

HOWARD JACOBSON

Where I come from, dung is dung, however long it's been hanging about, but to the scientist it's a coprolite'

— THE WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 5



gay

Hague, a year on: in an age of soundbites and snapshots, the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition didn't quite get it right



AUGUST 1997: The picture from a Cornwall water adventure park that said David Brenchley it all. That cap, that grin, that, er, squitness



APRIL 1998: When even spin supremo Max Clifford (see story below) is stumped by the problem of making Hague look less of a idiot, the chances of Sir Jim (pictured here at the Top Tie Wearers of the Year awards) fixing it look rather remote.



MAY 1998: Hague gurns for the camera again, on a visit to a dairy in his constituency Keith Taylor



by groovy festival-goers at the Notting Hill Carnival



AUGUST 1997: Hague's image-makers blow it. Ffion and William are surrounded SEPTEMBER 1997: Hague curries favour with Birmingham's Asian business Kieran Doherty community in the Balti Prince restaurant

After a year of gaffes, Hague celebrates with a day in bed

double bed and tufted mattress –

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ously, as a foetus, a squit, a lightweight and a prat. The political party he leads once spelt his name as William Haguz. He travelled down a waterslide in Cornwall wearing a baseball cap with his surname on it in large white letters.

He attended the country's coolest outdoor festival amid a fanfare of publicity - a skinny, bald middle-aged-looking bloke surrounded by men and women who make Sid Vicious look bland. And he married a woman so charismatic and curvy that the contrast made calling him a squit an insult to

amoebas everywhere. He is, in other words, a fairly ypical English bloke. He'd make a great dentist, a good branch manager of Rymans or a building society assistant

But this man is Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition and the potential prime minister of the United Kingdom, and

HE HAS been described, vari- By DARIUS SANAI

party that was just a landslide election away from staying in

In typical Hague form, in the attempt to celebrate his anniversary something had to go wrong. Instead of making a grand tour of his native Yorkshire and dropping in at a Lincolnshire school, the leader was, a Conservative party spokesman said, ill, and spending the day at home in bed.

It is not William Hague's fault that he doesn't look like a potential prime minister. Most men go bald, his height can't be helped, and as for being slim well, what's wrong with that,

But Mr Hague's first year has been riddled with gaffes, blunders and chunks of sheer lucklessness that mean he is even less prime ministerial now than he was when "William Who?" was elected to lead the Tories on 19 June, 1997.

visit a theme park in Cornwall. The setting was perfect for a man wanting to woo Middle England: a typically jolly watersports centre in Middle England's most traditional

summertime playground. The leader would pose for nictures while barrelling down a waterslide - perhaps not the ideal stunt for a 36-year-old desperate to win the respect of the grandees of the Carlton Club, but certainly something designed to entertain the nonexistent Tory youth vote.

Mr Hague looked relaxed and happy as he shot down the chute, trying to project an image almost everyone who knows him insists is the true William: intelligent, confident and mature. This, after all, was the boy who lectured the Tory Party conference on "rolling back the state" when he was

Unfortunately, the pictures

just 16.

chief Tory spinfuhrer Alan Dun- baseball caps (the right way lagher. There was an attempt- more gravitas, nous and dignican, arranged for his boss to round) with HAGUE written on them was "in", has remained a mystery. Perhaps Mr Duncan wanted to capture the young black vote, but someone failed to tell him homeboys don't wear caps with SMTTH pasted on

> There was one more attempt to be cool. Nobody can deny a Tory leader the right to attend any sort of legal entertainment he wants. But to summon the press to the Notting Hill Carnival was asking for trouble; like Tony Blair asking photographers to capture a meeting with the North Yorkshire Unreconstructed Socialists' Association. Mr Hague was seen surrounded by thou-

> colourful bodies. His fiancée, Ffion, carried it off she is more Welsh than him, cooler, more fun. William, with his delighted grin, looked the dorky boy in the class who has his first can of Heldenbrau and

sands of healthy, tanned, tough,

ed remedy in Ffion's appearance in a clinging dress two months later, but Mr Hague's spin doctors (who on the evidence appear to be more spin quacks, and should be struck off by the BMA) rather ruined it plussed. "Um. It's very diffiagain) by comparing her to Liz Hurley. The British people know Liz Hurley, and Ffion is no

Liz Hurley. Mr Hague's other gaffes were fairly minimal by the standards of British politics, but the poor man seems to suffer even when other people make gaffes when talking about him. Earlier this year. Labour's sports minister, Tony Banks, called his honourable friend a foetus and implied he should have been aborted; although Banks was reprimanded by Tony Blair, his comment stuck.

Mr Hague's problems may be terminal. The Independent contacted Max Clifford, the swashbuckling and shameless spin surgeon, to see how he this week he celebrates a year Last August. Mr Hague's conveyed a different image, then careens down to the rave would ensure that in his second "no man me of being the number one of the version of Alastair Campbell, Just who decided that wearing club thinking he is Liam Galyear Mr Hague would have destroyed."

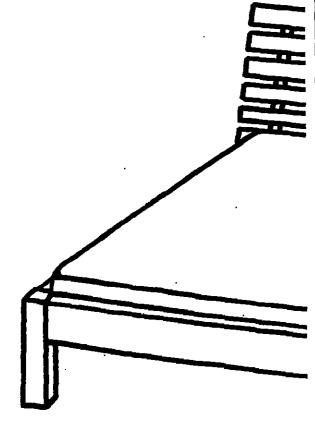
ty, and less, er, squitness, than in his first.

There was silence as the normally garrulous Mr Clifford plunged into contemplation. He admitted he was noncult." He threw the question out to his entire office. Three PR people descended into silence (possibly the only time so far Mr Hague can claim truly to have made history).

Ten minutes later Mr Clifford called back. "Yes, I've got it," he said. He pronounced the only course of action for the Leader of the Opposition.

"He has to have had an affair with someone beautiful, intelligent and respected, who sells the story to the papers. Gwyneth Paltrow, that's it. She has to tell the Daily Mail that she was drawn to him by his sheer physical presence, his animal magnetism, and his power. Since he left her." - before, Mr Clifford adds, he met Ffion -"no man measures up. She is

So far so good, but Europe remains a minefield



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ONE YEAR on, does William By DONALD MACINTYRE Hague ever wish he hadn't taken the job? That he hadn't woken up that morning last June and unscrambled the deal he had sealed over champagne the previous evening to run as

Michael Howard's No 2? Sometimes, surveying his lack of impact on the opinion polls, wondering at Tony Blair's dominance of the political landscape, and weathering the back-biting from a handful of well-connected and contemptuous Commons tearoom malcontents, he probably does. Wouldn't it have been rather easier, he must occasionally feel, to let someone else lose the next election and be in pole position to grab the leadership in time for the one after that?

Well yes and no. Some perspective is needed here. Margaret Thatcher's first year as Opposition leader was if anything rather grimmer. She had

jokes about her ignorance of foreign affairs. There were laments that the country hadn't warmed to her. By these standards, Hague has actually done rather well.

The presentational gaffes early in his leadership were exaggerated. Maybe the baseball can didn't work; but it's baffling why he should have been criticised for turning up at the Notting Hill carnival. He has more ability to charm the party faithful than his two most recent predecessors, and he may even be cleverer than either of them.

He is probably the most natural platform speaker to lead the Tory party since Harold Macmillan. And apart from one or two lapses - like concentrating on Europe on the day the Bernie Ecclestone affair to face the constant carping of broke - he has performed con-Tory grandees who assumed sistently well at Commons

doesn't play in the country – as the polls bleakly demonstrate - it doesn't half cheer up his troops in Westminster.

He has made the prosaic but probably correct remark to one or two of his colleagues that the organisation needed to rebuild his shattered party would do better to focus on this summer's agricultural shows and October's university freshers' fairs than on Westminster.

He prevented the party imploding after the general election. He skilfully extracted the Tories from their opposition to a London mayor. It didn't collapse to third place in the local elections. And his transformation of the party into something closer to a modern democratic organisation was carried out with the minimum of fuss.

He has been indulgent on occasions. Allowing his Northern ireland spokesman Andrew Mackay to holiday in Namibia

skilfully presented, Shadow Cabinet reshuffle. He was bold but right to replace Peter Lilley, who had performed poorly as shadow Chancellor, with Francis Maude, a political heavyweight who has both leadership potential and the huge advantage with the public of not having been part of the

1992-97 government He was more than a touch ruthless in dumping Alastair Goodlad, a nice man and unmistakably one of the old school Tory toffs. He was sensible to promote the brainy David Willetts to the Shadow Cahinet and to dispatch the high-risk Alan Duncan out of his command bunker to a junior frontbench job. And it was astute to bring one or two MPs like Damien Green from the highly capable 1997 intake.

So far so good. The real problems lie in the future. Over during the Good Friday talks in some of them he has little con-liberated from the Shadow Cab.

Question Time. While this Belfast was a mistake. But he trol. The prospect of electoral inet, sees himself as a conshowed some steel in his first, reform, if the British people vote for it, could hardly be more daunting. Given his own and the Tories' current rightish, non-centrist bent, he could find himself leading the one party incapable of taking power because no one wants to form a coalition with it.

But on others he does have some influence - and has not yet shown much sign of exercising it. Of these, by far the greatest is Europe. It's understandable that after John Major's heroic failure to hold a divided party together, Hague decided to bow to the majority take a clear position against British Emu entry in this or the next Parliament. But it leaves him dangerously boxed in.

Which is why the leading pro-Europeans in the party may still prove a long-term threat if they turn out to have been right all along. Not just Stephen Dorrell who, newly

tender in a future contest with Michael Portillo, but Ken Clarke, who at 57 can't be written off, and just happens to be giving the keynote speech at the Tory Reform Group today.

There are just the faintest signs, despite his ill-judged, deeply Euro-sceptic speech at Fontainebleau last month, that Hague is willing to allow Maude to steer the party to a more pragmatic stance on Emu. But the big question is how far the Europhobic fundamentalists -Michael Howard, David Heathcoat-Amory, John Redwood and

others - will allow it to happen. If the party stance does change, he may yet show the skill and intelligence to grow into a credible prime ministe-

rial candidate. If it doesn't, and British membership of the single currency becomes a reality, almost any other leader might be better placed to lead a post-Emu Tory party.

المكذا من ألاصل

Consent age for gays to be set at 16

MPS ARE expected to vote by a margin of two to one on Monday to lower the age of consent

However, moves by a group of Labour MPs to put an age limit of 18 on all relationships between teenagers and authority figures will muddy the waters of the debate.

The vote to equalise the age of consent seemed a foregone conclusion last night, with many MPs promising to return from constituency weeks to vote in favour of the move. But an amendment, signed by more than 30 members, calls for a new ban on all sexual relationships where one party is in a position of "authority, influence or trust".

Gay rights campaigners said the move would criminalise young adults unnecessarily, and that a definition of what constituted influence or trust would be hard to reach.

But Joe Ashton, the Labour member for Bassetlaw, who is proposing the amendment said t would reflect the aims of Sir William Utting's report on children in care

By Fran Abrams Westminster Correspondent

with a 17-year-old boy or girl, that's fine, except if the pupil is at his school. That's the distinction which I think parents would be very much in favour of," he said

Ann Keen, the Labour MP for Brentford and Isleworth, will propose the amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill which will reduce the age of consent to 16. "Let's get real," she said. "What right have we got to interfere with people's lives?"

She said the Home Office had agreed to review the law on adults in positions of trust in the light of the Utting report.

Gay rights campaigners say on, though. They will continue to argue for legal rights for unmarried partners, for an end to the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces and for new laws to prevent homophobic

Outrage! will now step up a campaign to lower the age of this will do anything to protect "If a teacher has an affair consent to 14. Its director, Peter them," she said.

BY FRAN ARRAMS

Waheed Alli and Melvyn Bragg,

Tatchell, said gay men were still being prosecuted under the provisions of the 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act, which was used to imprison Oscar Wilde for his relationship with the Marquess of Queensberry.

The law against buggery, which originated in 1533, was still used regularly, he said, while a vagrancy law passed in 1898 to protect young girls from older men was now mainly used to prevent gays from "cruising" in public places.

"MPs planning to vote against the new age of consent should ask themselves this question: If you had a 16-or 17year-old gay son, would you want him put in prison for a consenting relationship?"

Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative frontbencher and MP their fight for equality will go for Maidstone and The Weald, said she would be voting both against the move to cut the age of consent and against Joe Ashton's amendment.

"We all know little boys are attractive to the sort of older men who have those sort of inclinations, and I am not sure



Chancellor Gordon Brown, with Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Alastair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, enjoys some less taxing work on a visit to Edinburgh

Minimum wage 'is no threat to jobs'

SMALL BUSINESSES BY DAISY SAMPSON

THE NATIONAL minimum

wage will not result in a loss of jobs, the small business minister Barbara Roche said in the Commons yesterday.

Ms Roche opened a debate on small business less than 24 hours after Margaret Beckett. President of the Board of Trade, announced the minimum wage rate of £3.60 an hour for adults.

Mrs Roche also challenged the Opposition to spell out whether it would, if in office, repeal the minimum wage. "Are they seriously going to go into the next election promising a pay cut for two million workers in this country?" she asked.

The minimum wage, she said, should "not be seen as a burden but as an opportunity" and would have many fringe benefits to the employer "in terms of morale, greater commitment, less absenteeism and reduced turnover of

Having told the Commons that the Government had taken action to curb late payments of debts, with a Bill that had become law last week, Ms Roche said: "We recognise that what small business wants is a stable economy and we are laying the foundations

Tories hit at Hansard new peers

LABOUR'S EFFORTS to redress the balance in the Conservativedominated House of Lords take a step forward today as Tony Blair creates 18 new life peers.

The Prime Minister's second list of working members for the porters. Downing Street was at upper house has almost three times as many Labour names as Conservative on it. The Tories have five new peers, while the Liberal Democrats

ernment overtakes Her word working is there for a Majesty's Official Opposition in the Lords. Before yesterday's change, the Conservatives had 474 peers while Labour had 156, the Liberal Democrats 67, cross benchers 323 and others 119.

Plans to abolish voting rights for hereditary peers should help to balance the figures, but even after that the Conservatives will still have significantly more clout in the upper house. After today's list the Conservatives will have 174 life peers to Labour's 157.

Although several of the high-ernment's poodle," said Mr Anest profile new peers, including cram, a hereditary peer and MP.

Mary Goudie, pro-Europe cam-

paigner and public affairs con-

sultant; Glenys Thornton,

former Fabian chair and pub-

lic affairs consultant, Pola

Uddin, quality manager for the

London Borough of Newham;

Nazir Ahmed, business devel-

opment manager, Waheed Alli,

managing director, Planet 24; William Bach, barrister,

Melvyn Bragg, broadcaster;

David Brookman, general sec-

retary of the Iron and Steel

Trades Confederation; Anthony

Christopher, chairman of

Trades Union Fund Managers

Ltd: Anthony Clarke, former

deputy general secretary of

the Union of Postal Workers;

David Evans, chairman of Cen-

turion Press Group; Toby Har-

ris, Labour leader of Haringey

Council and chairman of Asso-

ciation of London Government;

Chris Haskins, chairman of

LABOUR: Christine Crawley, Northern Foods; Brian

MEP for Birmingham East; Mackenzie, former chief

row is defused by editor

NORTHERN IRELAND By Fran Abrams

are well-known Labour sup-A ROW over the alleged deletion pains to stress that they had from the official Parliamentary record of a statement by Tony been chosen for their work on behalf of the party. Blair on Northern Ireland was A spokesman said they defused by the editor of would be expected to attend Hansard yesterday.

regularly to vote and speak in Although the Speaker, Betty At this rate, it would be a long the House. "They are very Boothroyd, will not rule on the to her from the editor of the ofvery good reason," he said. ficial report denied any med-The Conservative deputy dling by the Prime Minister's chairman, Michael Ancram, Office.

Peter Robinson, the Demodubbed the new Labour peers "Tony's Cronies". Mr Blair's cratic Unionist MP for Belfast spokesman had already ex-East, had complained on Thursday that his question plained after a defeat earlier about whether prisoners could this year that the working peers' job was "to represent the be released before arms had party, not snub the Prime Minbeen decommissioned had ister. We'll be more careful who been answered in the affirmative by Mr Blair. we appoint in future."

The words "The answer to "New Labour have made no your question is yes, of course it is the case that both in respect secret of their intention to turn the House of Lords into the Govof taking seats in the government of Northern Ireland and the early release of prisoners," although spoken in the cham-Those to be elevated ber, had never appeared in Hansard, he claimed.

Yesterday the editor, lan Church, released a full transcript which he said showed Mr. Blair's words had been reflected in spirit if not to the

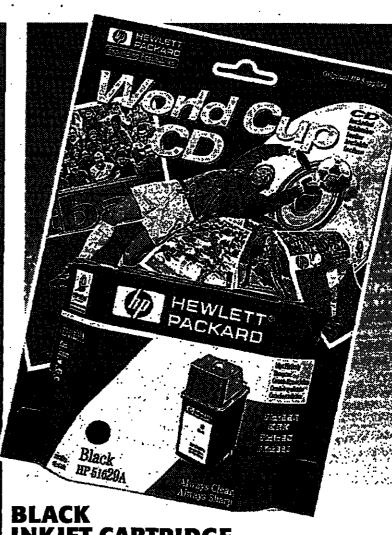
The Prime Minister's full response had been: "What is essential is that any agreement must be signed up to in full, as we said, and the answer to his question is yes of course it is the case that, both in respect of taking seats in the government of Northern Ireland and in respect of the early release of prisoners, the only organisations that qualify for that are organisations that bave given up violence and given it up for good."

Ian Church wrote: "I do not need to remind you that Hansard is a full report, not a verbatim report. It has a discretion to amend the words as spoken, acting within the authority of its terms of reference."

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Dobson defends special adviser

FRANK DOBSON, Secretary of State for Health, defended the role of his special adviser in the production of a document for Labour.MPs.

A briefing document for backbenchers was written, produced, photocopied and distributed by his departmental special adviser, prior to the Government's debate on

OUESTIONS

superintendent of Durham

Constabulary; Tom Sawyer,

general secretary of the Labour Party: John Tomlinson, MEP for Birmingham West; Norman

Warner senior policy adviser to

the Home Secretary, Jack

Clement-Jones, solicitor; Sue

Miller, Somerset County Councillor, Andrew Phillips, solicitor,

Margaret Sharp, former civil

Conservative: Peta Bus-

combe, vice-chairman of the

Conservative Party; Sir Tim

Bell, chairman of Chime Com-

munications; Norman Lamont,

former Chancellor of the Ex-

chequer, Philip Norton, pro-

fessor of government at University of Hull; Paul White,

leader of the Conservative

group on Essex County

servant and academic.

Liberal Democrat: Tim

ANSWERS

the NHS on 16 June. In reply to a question from Philip Hammond (Con, Runnymede and Weybridge) he said: "Every aspect of this activity is entirely consistent with the long-established role of special advisers."

Harvest time

THE HOLDER of the only Home Office licence to grow cannabis is expected to harvest the weed in about 18 months, according to George Howarth, Parliamentary under-Secretary of State at the Home Office. The cannabis is for clinical trials

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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Water firms told: Stop draining rivers

M THE GOVERNMENT is to crack BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY O down on water companies whose drawing of water from boreholes causes rivers and Si wetlands to dry up.

Pronment minister, said yester- pipe networks tied to these li-Pl day that thousands of cences, and it's not just a matabstraction licences, which ter of turning a tap off. allow large amounts of water to De be taken without any regard to coming redundant, companies the environmental conse- will need to invest in alternative 7.; quences, are to be scrapped.

The controversial licences 9 are to be replaced by time-lim-provide a water supply to their 8. ited ones, while the companies w rights to compensation if a li-p; cence is revoked will also be

Announcing the proposals.

Mr Meacher said that the pre-

At stopped. Br The water firms will be M made liable for civil action for Redamages to rivers and wet-8. lands that have been damaged by over-abstraction from 1 Jan-

The changes, outlined in a BF consultation paper yesterday to 4. be introduced through an Act of Parliament, were promised last year by Mr Meacher at the Government's much-vaunted ■ Water Summit.

The announcement is in response to the recent very dry periods of 1989-1992 and D 1995-1997, when so much water I was taken from some aquifers, or water tables, that whole A rivers, such as the Darenth in A Kent and the Ver in Hertford-0 shire, dried up. Even more compensation rights, which he Fi substantial rivers like the Ken-8 net in Berkshire ran dry at the 3. top of their courses.

The Act is also aimed at se-7: curing the estimated 100-plus 2 protected wildlife sites across England and Wales which are 6 thought to be at risk through water abstraction.

It drew a warm welcome yesterday from the Environment Agency whose head of water resources, Dr Giles Phillips, said he "strongly supported" the 4 thrust of the proposals.

The water companies took a much more frosty view and ina dicated that the Government O was in for a fight, particularly a large proportion are not time-Wover the ending of compensa-6 tion. "It is the view of the comspanies that they must be v compensated if they are forced wito stop abstractions at partic-3. ular sites," said Gordon Simmons, of Water UK, the

Environment Correspondent

industry's umbrella body. "The industry has invested millions Michael Meacher, the envi- of pounds in treatment and

> "Aside from the assets befacilities and locations to meet their statutory obligations to

sent water abstraction licensing regime was set up in the 1960s when there was no knowledge of climate change and droughts were virtually unknown. "There is no doubt there was over-abstraction during the last drought, and in some rivers volume was reduced by up to a third, which meant that a large number of habitats on which wildlife depends were put at risk if not destroyed," he said.

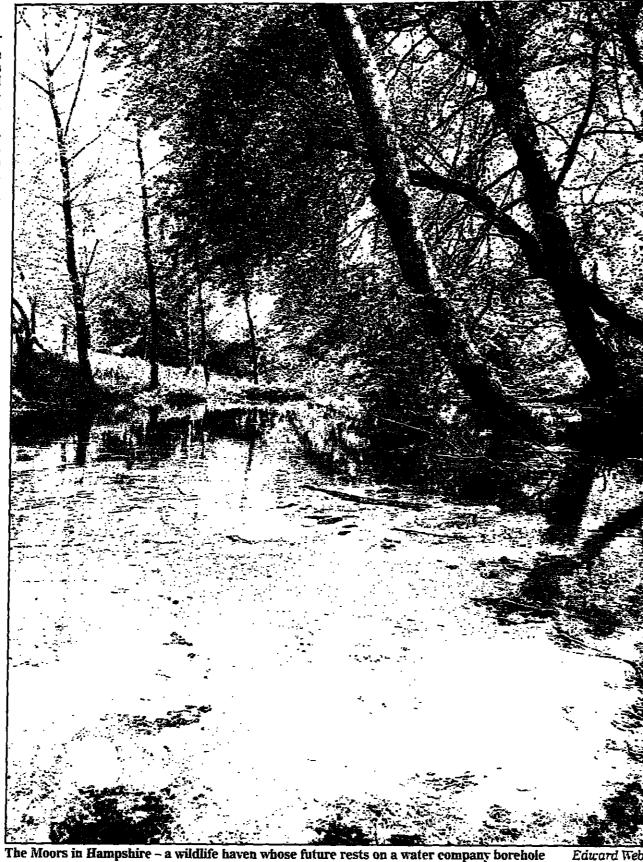
The Government will frame a new Water Bill for which Mr Meacher hoped there would be legislative time in the current Parliament. He took a sanguine view of the water companies' likely response about the proposals to withdraw their agreed might amount to "many many millions" of pounds.

"I don't think anyone can believe that property rights should be continued into perpetuity irrespective of environmental damage." he said.

"I think the water companies are responsible. They do know the reasons why we are doing

"They know the need for conservation and leakage control and all that should reduce the pressure on them to increase abstractions.

Of the 48,000 abstraction licences in England and Wales. limited. But though there have been powers to revoke them in case of environmental damage since 1963, they have never been used because of the fear that the resulting compensation would be enormous.



Beauty spot that could be lost forever

THE MOORS is a remarkable By MICHAEL MCCARTHY wetland wildlife site much loved by the people of the small market town of Bishop's Waltham: a piece of The Fens in Hampshire, on the edge of the chalk downs.

springs provide a series of pools interspersed with woodland just outside the town, 11 miles from Winchester, where people can glimpse rare wildlife - birds like snipe and water rail, plants such as water avens with their mauve bell-shaped flowers, and butterflies like the marbled white.

The 75 acres make up Hampshire's most important wetland away from the coast. and it has been given the Goveroment's principal wildlife site designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest - but it lives or dies. says the Environment Agency by the operation of the borehole in the nearby Hoe Road pumping station, owned by the Portsmouth Water Company.

We've drilled a series of boreholes of our own, and as soon as they turn the pumps on, there is a drop in the ground water said Rod Murchie, the agency's areas resources manager.

"If it was used for more than week or two, the springs would stop flowing and the site would dry out ... It would cease to be a wetland."

The company itself is well aware of the site's sensitivity. We've been aware of that for the last 25 years," said Andy Neve. the company's technical director

"In the 1970s, we reduced abstraction by over 95 per cent. We now only use it very rarely, primarily on occasions when we have particular problems with

المدا عن ألاصل

other sources. It's not in regular use."

The company and the agency have come to a provisional agreement that the com-Several bubbling chalk pany, which has 650,000 customers, will try to seek a replacement source - but its estimated cost is £3.5m.

This could be afforded if the director-general of water services, Ian Byatt, allows Portsmouth to pass this cost on to its customers in their bills; but he may not. In which case, Hoe Road will still have to be used.

"We don't have that kind of money," Mr Neve said. He said he was "disturbed" by the Government's proposals to scrap compensation rights when licences are revoked.

"We feel we've been very careful with our abstraction," he said. "What we have done over the years is to create sufficient resources so that we don't have to impose restrictions on our customers and if people take these resources away we might have to do that."

Mr Murchie, of the Environment Agency, was adamant.

"The fate of The Moors hangs on the future of that borehole," he said.

"They have a 'licence of right'. They can take water legally up to the licence limit. which is 11,000 cubic metres per day. If they did, it would destroy the site in a few weeks.

"They've only used it for a week or so in recent years, but their priority, of course, is to supply their customers so they will use it if necessary.

"We consider that unacceptable. It should not be used



Jenkins: I didn't murder Billie-Jo Billie-Jo had rade the "Lois had said to mer Billie might have ce hitch under her and the "Lois had rade the "Lois had said to mer Billie might have ce hitch under her and the "Lois had rade the "Lois had

of his 13-year-old foster daugh-

After 11 days of evidence at Lewes Crown Court, Sussex, the 40-year-old deputy headmaster finally had his chance to tell the eight men and four

women jurors of his innocence. Jenkins is accused of killing Billie-Jo as she painted the patio windows at the family's home in Hastings in February last year. He denies the charge and has paid constant attention to the claims made against him, passing frequent notes to

Yesterday, called by Anthony Scrivener QC, appearing for the defence, he walked from the dock to the witness stand and, in a slightly croaky voice,

Mr Scrivener asked: "Did you kill Billie-Jo Jenkins?" Jenkins replied: "No – I did not kill Billie-Jo." Asking no further questions, Mr Scrivener told the judge, Mr Justice Gage, that he had finished and sat down.

It was left to Camden Pratt. appearing for the prosecution, to extract the story of last year's events from Jenkins, as Billie-Jo's natural parents watched from the public gallery

The court has already heard transcripts of police statements taken from him at the time.

Jenkins sipped from a cup of water as he denied bludgeoning Billie-Jo with a metal

Mr Pratt asked if Jenkins was often left alone with Billie-Jo. After a long silence he

Mr Pratt then asked Jenkins to describe his foster child,

daughters for four and a half

Jenkins said first: "She could be impatient." Asked to elaborate on this, there was a long silence before Jenkins replied: "She would simply say so. She would display her impatience."

Pressed by Mr Pratt on whether Billie-Jo could be a difficult girl, Jenkins said: "That was when Billie first came to us, and she had many difficulties and she had many problems and many things that she had to cope with, and over the years those receded."

Jenkins was questioned about events on the Friday before the murder. He said his wife had gone to London to work and he was at home because it was half-term. Billie-Jo had been out with a friend for most of the day.

He had gone to Do It All to buy some paint and a paintbrush so the girls could do some painting, one of several jobs planned for the week,

He and the children had discussed a list of jobs they could do and he said it was "a fun activity". The jobs included washing cars, painting, sweeping and gardening. He told the court: "I was not bothered about the jobs but they wanted to earn extra money.

He said the painting was the "more glamorous job" because it was something they had not done before. The job consisted of painting two French window doors, and Jenkins agreed it was a "difficult job" to get a straight line by the glass

Mr Pratt asked if Billie-Jo had called Lois a "bitch", and who had lived with him, his wife Jenkins replied: "No."



Billie-Jo Jenkins: could be impatient'

He said: "I came into the bedroom from the bathroom and Billie-Jo was organising to go out with a friend on Saturday. Lois said she had been in a conversation with Billie. Billie walked away and she thinks Billie might have called her a bitch under her breath."

Jenkins questioned his wife and she said she was not sure

"Lois had said to me she thinks Billie might have called her a bitch under her breath. I thought - well, I could not believe it," said Jenkins.

He added: "I questioned the situation. I said. 'Îf Billie-Jo has called you a bitch we need to do something."

Jenkins told the court: "If Billie had called her mother a bitch, certainly Billie would be grounded, and she would not be able to go out with her friend that particular day."

The court heard that Billie-Jo and 10-year-old Annie both wanted to paint the patio doors, but Jenkins gave the job to Billie-Jo.

Mr Pratt asked Jenkins why he had not reported any attempted break-in to the family home when a pane of glass had been broken in the patio windows and the door forced open. Jenkins replied: "Because I think we had had so much trouble and nothing had

The trial was adjourned until



Sion Jenkins, accused of murdering his foster daughter, arriving at Lewes Crown Court vesterday Nigel Bowles

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Image problem dogs Welsh

WALES IS remote, something of BY ROGER DOBSON a dump, and, unfortunately, inhabited by Welsh people. At least that's what the English

think, according to the Institute Welsh Affairs. A report launched yesterday by the influential Welsh thinktank states that its inhabitants are the victims of racism seen largely as beer-drinking, hymn-singing, argumentative and workshy folk who speak an

unintelligible language and are prone to burning holiday homes. Now, with devolution and a National Assembly almost in place, it says, it is time to make a major effort to combat the racial stereotyping and the image of Wales as a country of

sheep and slagheaps. "There is increasing concern that distorted outside impressions of Wales continue to be counterproductive to encouraging inward investment, especially from the English South-east. This is compounded by widespread prejudices by the English about the Welsh people," says the institutes's di-

rector, John Osmond. The report itself, written by John Smith, the Labour MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, spells out some of the problems and inaccurate perceptions.

Welshness presents a negative image because it is so closely associated with dam-

aging stereotypes of the Welsh character and people. In combination they amount to a form of racism." it says.

"The Welsh are perceived as variously clannish and ultranationalistic, unfriendly and hostile, verbose and argumentative, and unduly devoted to beer-drinking, hymn-singing. rugby, and moreover, given in the recent past to burning holiday homes. The general message that comes across is that the Welsh are not to be trusted. Unlike the Scots, the Welsh have a reputation for being workshy and unreliable. They are seen as collectivist, militant and lacking in company loyalty."

Many English people, it suggests, still carry the damning images of Wales acquired from How Green Was My Valley, a film regarded by many as the Welsh equivalent of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Others retain negative images from child-hood of wet holidays in resorts such as Llandudno or Rhyl.

But while Wales suffers neg-

ative racial stereotyping by the English, foreign investors are more than happy with the principality. They see the language as an asset and point out that the working days lost through industrial action in Wales are among the lowest in the UK.

Prince William's press complaint resolved

A COMPLAINT FROM St By ELISA CRAWFORD James's Palace about a supplement on Prince William in last week's Mail on Sunday has been "amicably resolved", the Press Complaints Com-

mission said today. The chairman, Lord Wakeham, said the commission would be taking no further action on the supplement marking the prince's 16th birthday tomorrow. He said: "This matter has now been swiftly and amicably resolved between the newspaper and

the Palace in line with stan dard procedures of the Press Complaints Commission." Prince William is believed to have been personally involved

in bringing the article to the press watchdog's attention. Lord Wakeham also had praise for newspapers on their "exemplary" behaviour in respecting Prince William's privacy at Eton. But he urged

editors to continue the practice

as he gets older.

FERGAL KEANE

'It was without doubt the most frustrating encounter of my journalistic career'

THE WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 3

The business brains behind Blair

M'BY LOUISE JURY

Citwhere once union leaders 6.0 had a monopoly on beer and Sinsandwiches with Labour at Whitehall, the heads of Rolls-PERoyce, Tesco and British Aero-PEspace have now moved in with mineral water and quiche.

3.5 Around 350 of Britain's most De successful industrialists and 11 business people are now ad-7.2vising the Government, ac-11 cording to a report just 9.1 published. Business and industry have taken half the 700 Wiseats on more than 75 task puforces, an analysis by the Cran-Affield School of Management Brihas shown.

Mc Yet, even as the 48-page re-Report, "The Task Force Revolu-8.4tion by Lewis Madeod, was 5.1 rolling off the presses, the Govprernment was already cocking a Agsnook at the expert advisers it BRhas gathered.

4.5 The chairman of the Low PPay Commission, Professor ThGeorge Bain - the distinguished former head of the pLondon Business School -Ospent months working with BRemployers, employees' repre-1. sentatives and academics to Doproduce recommendations on Tha minimum wage based on exptensive consultation. Then Goradon Brown, the Chancellor of ARhe Exchequer, watered down Ofhis figures.

Fu The decision raised quesa tions as to exactly what task 3. forces were for Mr Macleod Osaid they certainly went further 72than simply breaking down 26 Whitehall intransigence and g providing outside help". But he concluded: "The jury is still out on the task-force format as a viable means of spreading the ownership of policy decisions."

Key recommendations of g the better regulation task force 6.on consumer affairs were re-4pected, for example. The legal-Sizid review conducted for the SLord Chancellor's department Apy Sir Peter Middleton, deputy Of chairman of Barclays Bank, Weaused widespread unease and 6. ts proposals were unlikely to se implemented. And then the Vilreasury rode roughshod over withe advice of the Low Pay 8.Commission

FROM MOVIES TO MORTGAGES: ENTREPRENEURS ADVISING LABOUR



Adair Turner

Skills task force.

Third successive

head of the CBI to

Lord Levy











Chairman Northern







Industrial relations

Low Pay Commission

Job title

doing for Blair

Director general British Industry. Dept of Education

1.0 Foreign Office's Panel 2000.

Accountant turned

pop millionaire. An

almost legendary figure in the Jewish

community for his charitable fund-

peerage after using his skills to bring in

a reported £7m for

raising, he was elevated to the

DTT's increasing

Joined Rolls-Royce

in 1984. Elected to the board in 1992,

executive in 1995.

Earlier this year, his pay jumped from £314,000 to

£471,000 alongside

a solid rise in the

company's pre-tax

profits. Age 45.

appointed chief

Chief executive

John Rose

Chairman Conran Holdings Ltd.

Competitiveness

Design guru who founded Habitat

chain, now best-

known for his

restaurants.

string of stylish

Design Museum.

and established his

own foundation for

design education in 1981. Age 67.

Trustee of London's

advisory group task

Conran

Chief executive

Transport and the

Construction Task

Force chairman.

Studied at the

School before

London Business

and working his

cars. Headed

London Tourist

way through Leyland and Jagua

this year. Age 58.

becoming an engineer with Shell

Dept of

Regions'

Building Society, FOR MODERNIA SERVICE DTI's Making the most of the

Joined the building

society 12 years ago and became chief

executive eight years later. Since

then, society has

its own life

Age 53.

dumped disastrous investment in estate

agents and launched

insurance company.

Chief executive

Cabinet Office's Better regulation task force chairman. New Deal task force, panel on sustainable

task force. AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O Trustee of the left -wing think-tank Demos, he joined Northern Foods in 1962, and became 1986. Age 61.

Oscar-winning film director and longstanding Labour donor. Briefly headed the American Columbia film studios before returning to Britain. Sits on the Lottery Panel. Age 57.

Film producer.

Chairman Enigma

Dept of Education's

standards task force.

National schools

Dept of Culture's

Creative inclustries

Canadian-born the London Business School. During his tenure, the school established itself as one of the best in Europe. Age 59.

all thr

MOSON

admit

as quotes

Life and times

Value to

the party

come from international management consultants. McKinsey and Companywhich he joined in 1982. Former Young Tory who switched to SDP. Age 42.

This prematurely Could be in charge grey smoothie suits Labour's image as of MP hairstyles with that neatly blowdried look. Has best and the brightest. He also spent his working life in private adds gravitas and Labour donor he has will provide feedback for Labour proved his worth as from the CBI which a one-man cash styles itself as "the machine.

A senior industry figure his manufacturing isses. As a big by Volkswagen of

A Sir John Harvey Jones type figure might have been background will be better for this troubleshooting job. But Conran is the vital in his advisory capacity. With Rolls recently taken over who makes people Germany after much sit up and listen. rumpus he is well Other jobs: free suit advisory service. His top tip? Always placed to advise on wear a blue shirt. investment.

Another industry heavyweight who did well at Jaguar before it was sold to Ford and promptly went into reverse. An old stager he adds gravitas and, like Adair Turner, will help keep Labour informed on what industry is thinking.

who is described by some as "pleased with himself .Head of the Nationwide. he as positioned himself as a staunch defender of the mutual tradition. So he is a rare businessman in that he adopts the moral high ground.

A goodie two shoes - Labour will get good Another media value from this farm-loving Guardian-rearies who married the chairman's daugther. Old enough and rich enough to not care what he says and who he upsets.

TOWN THE REAL PROPERTY.

建筑设置 luvvie and everfor the British film industry. A natural industries" position. Hugh Grant as

Always good to have ¥ a boffin on board. Adds intellectual weight and represents the voice of academia. Well paid and highly experienced, he has the respect of the business community. Has a tricky role with the minimum wage.

has stopped the "dramatic rise" in the number of task forces and representatives on them. The research, carried out by the Cranfield School of Management at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, showed that there were 90 business leaders on the competitiveness working parties of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) alone.

"The business community the major task forces and has Yet none of these rejections members on those directly con- as the Department of Culture, is the exception. Adrian Mon- quango tends to be permanent,

cerned with industry issues," Mr Macleod said. They far outnumbered the

trade union representatives, although the Communication Workers Union, Manufacturing Science and Finance Union and Transport and General Workers' Union were among those groups with a say.

Virtually all posts are unpaid. "The only thing they get is a cup has representatives on most of of coffee and possibly a biscuit," one government spokeswoman the chair and a majority of said. Some departments, such

Media and Sport, do not even pay expenses. Only academics among the DTI's advisers get their bus fares back, although no one has claimed any yet.

Some task forces, such as the Low Pay Commission, meet once or twice a month, the creative industries task force - designed to increase creative activity and excellence - about six times a year, and others every few months or so.

The Treasury's private finance initiative (PFD task force

pointed as full-time chief executive on a salary of £160,000 for two years to sort out the programme to use private money for public-sector infrastructure projects. He has a team of

eight, all also paid and full-time. The irony, of course, is that in Opposition, Labour criticised the Conservatives for their quangos. A Cabinet Office spokeswoman tried to outline the difference between the two bodies. "As a rule of thumb, a

tague, a City banker, was ap- a task force is set up to look at a particular issue or problem." Not all problems get big

names to tackle them. While Richard Branson, the rock singer Mick Hucknell and lyricist Sir Tim Rice wander the corridors of the Department of Party and business, he was part-Culture, the Department of Health has a hospital porter, Clive Mason of Telford, on its staff involvement task force.

Mr Macleod said: "The task a new trend towards partner-

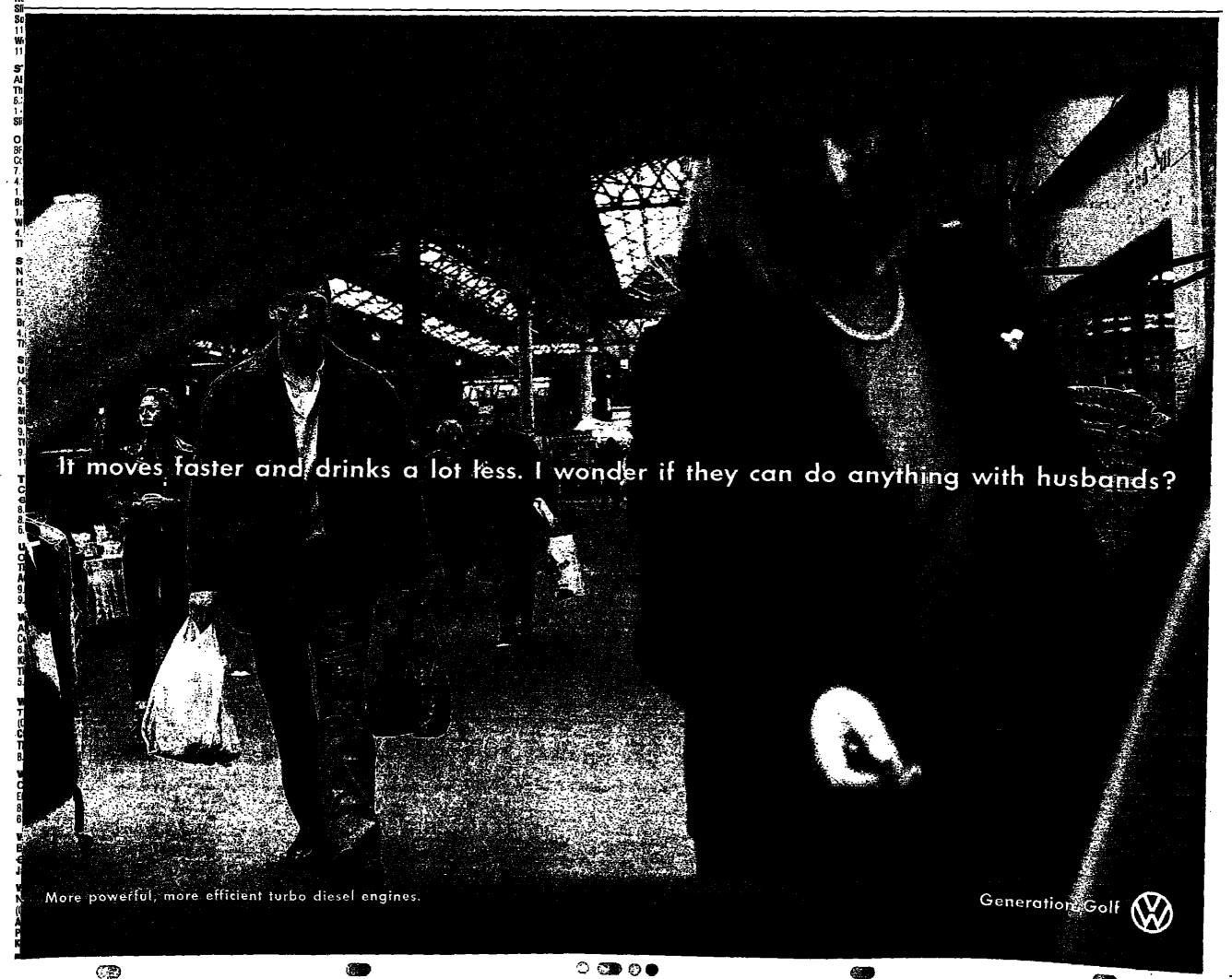
But do they work? Gerald Frankel, who runs a computer innovations company, has reservations. As chairman of the Industry Forum, a body set up around five years ago to establish links between the Labour ly responsible for the development of the task-force idea. Before the election, such groups helped Labour develop its business and industry policies. But force is a concept indicative of they were arguably less useful

for a party in power, he said. "There are some extremely force to investigate.

good people on these task forces, but in the main they are appointments, and people are not inclined to be as open and as critical as is necessary to those who have appointed them.

But they might not last anyway. The task force might be "a phenomenon that will continue to evolve", suggested Mr Macleod. Or they could be "a one-off political fad with a limited shelf life".

They should set up a task



علدًا من ألاصل

Ukraine 'loses' West's \$5bn aid

ALMOST five billion dollars By Phil. REEVES (£3.1bn) which was supposed to be spent dealing with the terrible aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster - on medicine and rehousing for victims has been squandered, it

emerged yesterday A probe by the Ukrainian government has unearthed massive misuse of the money which was earmarked for tens of thousands of victims, including salting cash away into illegal accounts in order to pocket the interest.

There have long been suspicions in the West of widespread abuse of Chernobyl money. But the scale of the scandal will cause consternation, not least because Ukraine has been lobbying for Western funds to fulfil a pledge to close Chernobyl down by 2000.

Ukraine has also been pressing for more international cash towards rebuilding the dangerous, leaking 74-metrehigh sarcophagus which covers the remains of the exploded reactor, including 34 tons of

highly radioactive dust. Western sources in Ukraine, who have been closely involved in the 12-year operation to cope with the after-effects of the world's worst environmental disaster, confirmed earlier this year to The Independent that considerable amounts of Chernobyl money had disappeared. Much had gone on flats for people who were largely unaffected by the accident.

But the suggested figures did not run into the billions of dollars. The Ukrainian government said the scandal came only to light after its Finance Ministry checked 5,000 enterprises which handle Money from the Chernobyl Find set up after the 1986 disaster Businesses in the former Soviet

republic are obliged by law to pay into the fund. In the capital city of Kiev alone, the inspectorate's officials found 1m Ukrainian hryvna, (£310,000) had been misspent.

Examples included money which was supposed to provide apartments for victims of the disaster, but which ended up buying housing for others. Another \$1bn, which was for food, medicine and other health services,

ended in pockets elsewhere. The Ukraine said yesterday it had launched 70 criminal investigations. It claimed it had already forced culprits to pay back \$1bn, and said 94 officials had been fined.

The government of President Leonid Kuchma chose to release details of the scandal as it halved mandatory payments by employers to the Chernobyl Fund, part of a move to avert the worsening fiscal crisis. Ukraine, like most ex-Sovi

et republics, has been engulfed by corruption since the end of the USSR, with many millions disappearing into foreign bank accounts or country mansions on the Black Sea.

The fate of its Chernobyl money will cause little surprise, but will complicate its troubled relationship with the West over the disaster, which sent a radioactive cloud across the northern hemisphere.

Earlier this month, Ukraine's Prime Minister. Valeri Pustovoitenko, criticised what he said was the West's slowness in putting up the cash needed to make the Chernobyl nuclear plant safe before its planned closure in 2000. "We don't agree to the fact that we may have to wait for two years for aid," he said.

Russian threat over Kosovo

RUSSIA WARNED yesterday that any military intervention in the Serbian province of Kosovo which was not authorised by the United Nations would plunge Europe into a new Cold War.

Speaking in Moscow, Leonid Colonel-General Ivashov, one of the country's most senior military commanders, set out once more Russia's hostility to Nato strikes to drive President Slobodan Milosevic into serious negotiations with the ethnic Albanian majority in the province.

Nato action without the backing of the UN would lead to the start of a new Cold War, the Tass-Itar news agency quoted Gen Ivashov as saying. There were a thousand ways of solving the conflict peacefully; the military option is only the 1,001st, which we cannot

Russia, in other words, would use its Security Council veto to block any such resolution, a prospect which makes most Western countries even more uneasy about going

.th husban

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

abead with strikes, for all their tough rhetoric and the intimidatory air exercises in the southern Balkans staged by Nato this week.

Britain now stands in a minority of one within the European Union in its belief that the formal blessing of the UN is desirable, but not essential, before taking military action against the Serb forces in the province.

The dilemma is only deepened by the official stance of the Western powers that - whatever the brutality of a crackdown which has taken over 300 lives and made 50,000 plus homeless - independence for Kosovo is a non-starter.

That however is now very much the demand of Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate leader of the Kosovo Albanians who hith-

erto has opposed force. In Washington last night State Department esman declared that Kosovars who sought independence were "dehuding themselves".

Journalist admits inventing quotes

AWARDING-WINNING columnist for the Boston Globe resigned yesterday after she admitted fabricating people

and quotes in four columns this

Patricia Smith, in a column being published in today's Globe, apologised to her readers. "From time to time in my No excuses."

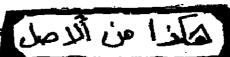
metro column, to create the desired impact or slam home a salient point, I attributed quotes to people who didn't exist," she wrote in this, her final column.

"That's one of the cardinal sins of journalism: Thou shall not fabricate. No exceptions.

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

'Ten years ago a Japanese bank would ask to lend you money. Now you have to go to them, and they take a lot of convincing

WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 10





Workers at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

D-mark birthday party that became a wake

GERMANY yesterday began BY IMRE KARACS saying farewell to the symbol of in Bonn the nation: the money that rethe defeated country.

It was 50 years ago today that the mighty Deutschmark had its humble beginnings, as the first crates of banknotes printed abroad were split open by Allied soldiers and the contents distributed among the pauperised population. Thus began the German "economic miracle".

In any other circumstances, the anniversary would have been a cause of wild celebrations, but yesterday joy seemed to be in short supply. The commemorative event at Bonn's History Museum, was more of a wake than a birthday party.

The slogan emblazoned on the rostrum did not help. "With the D-mark towards Europe." it proclaimed, unwittingly begging the question: "What then?" The answer was given on the commemorative posters, which depicted a one mark coin mutating into a euro. The speakers

stored pride and prosperity to had come to praise the mark, not to bury it, but the awkwardness of the moment could derful banknotes, woven into the tapestry of Germany's astounding rags-to-riches story, will soon be no more than fod-

der for the shredding machines. Twice this century, Germans had lost all their belongings to wars and hyperinflation. The birth of the mark banished such fears, opening the gate to a steady future of perpetuallyswelling bank accounts. And now, all these certainties are to he sacrificed on the altar of European integration.

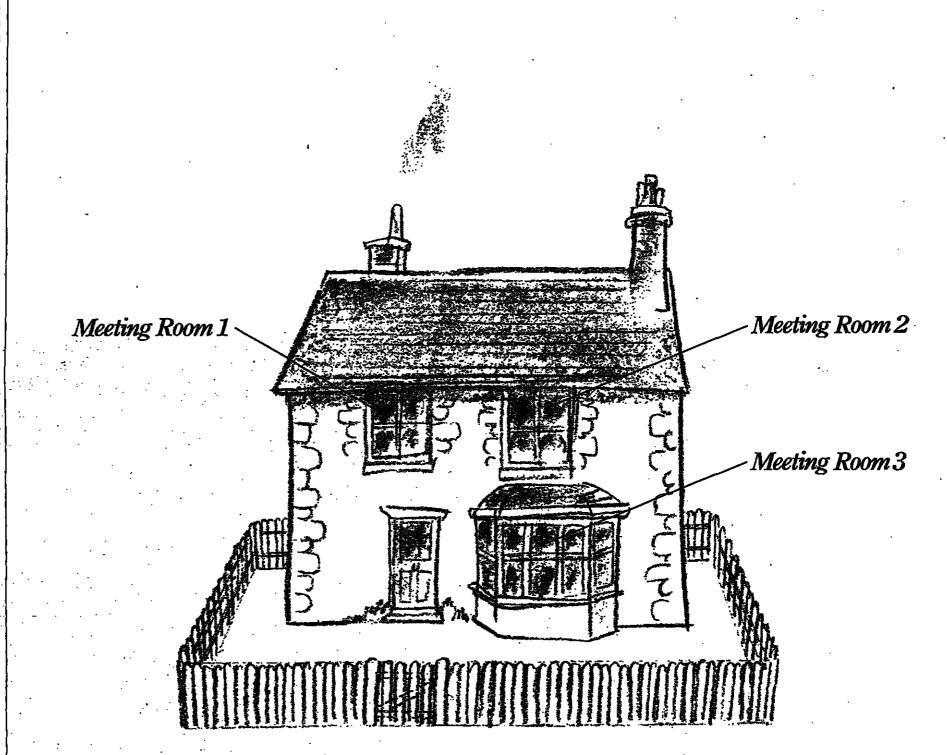
Theo Waigel, the finance minister, sought to soften the blow. "Germany is not losing the D-mark, but rather, gaining a stable currency of a vast internal market," he chirped.

Hans Tietmeyer, custodian of the mark in his capacity as president of the Bundesbank. reminded the audience of some

British opposition at the time to an independent German central bank. Mr Tietmever praised at length the culture that made the mark such a stable currency, though he did admit that not all Europeans had shared the Germans' awe.

"The DM is both - beauty and the beast," he said. And then the sponsor's message, to be broadcast to every European capital: "If the euro is to gain a similar or greater reputation, it must be built on the stability traditions of the D-Mark."

The baby was thus handed over to Wim Duisenberg, the president of the European Central Bank, who will shortly be doing Mr Tietmeyer's job. It is a tough act to follow, the Dutchman conceded. "It is no easy task to make the euro as stable and well-regarded in the world as the D-Mark," Mr Duisenberg said. "Nevertheless," he added in a solemn voice, "I can assure you that my colleagues and I will do our utmost to attain this



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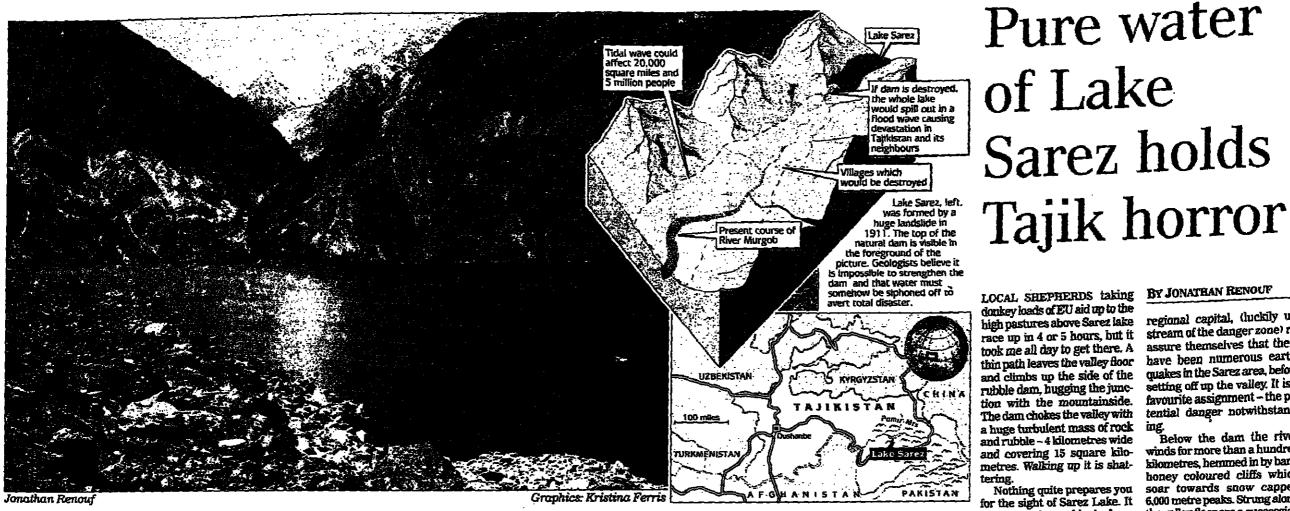
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Tidal wave threatens millions

EARTHQUAKES HAVE caused BY STEVE CONNOR cracks to appear in the Pamir mountains of eastern Tajikistan where a huge lake threatens to flood hundreds of square miles and up to 5 million people.

The president of Tajikistan, Imomali Rakhmonov, has requested help from Russia and the three other neighbouring states - Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan ~ which would be affected if the natural dam holding Lake Sarez is breached.

Scientists have warned for years that Lake Sarez is unstable but their concerns have lake in central Asia. It was been heightened by the recent earthquakes in Afghanistan, which killed between 3,000 and 5,000 people and caused cracks in the Pamir mountains.

Tajikistan, a mountainous country of 5.7 million inhabitants and with an economy Science Editor

war and natural disasters, is in no position to deal with the crisis by itself and needs the help of its neighbours, a spokesman for President

Rakhmonov said. "[They should] consider the possibility of sending specialists or financial assistance to put the Sarez lake into a safer condition This [problem] will also threaten the lives of the population of these countries," he

Lake Sarez is the youngest formed by a huge landslip in February 1911 which led to a dam 600 metres high blocking the entire valley of the river Murgob.

The dam completely stopped the flow of water in the river and the result was Lake Sarez. Since its formation it has filled up with 17 cubic kilometres of the Tajik economy.

The lake now stretches back about 70kms up the former river valley, and the surface area is 88 square kms. There have been more than

30 earthquakes in the region since 1990 which have shaken the dam and the huge slabs of overhanging rocks on the mountainsides above the

The recent Afghan quakes have revived worries that Sarez Lake could be living on borrowed time. What an earthquake created, an earthquake could yet take away.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union there has been little scientific study of Sarez Lake and its dam. Recently a conference was held to discuss the dangers posed by the lake, but scientific study is hampered by the lake's re-

Scientists fear that either the dam itself will be destroyed or that a landslide into the lake would result in a tidal wave sending large volumes of water over the dam into the inhabited valleys below.

Some of the overhanging rocks are the size of five-storey

Last year a relatively small landslide sent millions of cubic feet into the lake and created a wave six metres high.

Samuel Grigorian, a professor of geology at Moscow State University has warned: "If a powerful earthquake occurs, and it will definitely occur because quakes happen there all the time, rocks will collapse and this mass will fall into the lake, pushing the water out."

If the dam were destroyed the whole lake could spill out and threaten a 20,000-squaremoteness, and the poor state of mile area inhabited by 5 million

people. About 1,500 people live directly below the lake. There possible to strengthen the dam to make it safe. They have suggested inare more villages about 19 miles away from the dam but a

less than an hour.

affected.

of the Pyandzh before the

floodwater burst out onto the

Central Asian plains. In total it

square kilometres would be

Scientists have noticed that

ble than in recent years, prob-

ably because of the pressure

up of water in the lake. There

is a noticeably increased fil-

ing down the valley:

stead that attempts are made flood wave moving at 15ft per to relieve the pressure on it by second would reach them in siphoning off water from the Dozens more villages would Such a project however, will be obliterated downstream on both the Afghan and Tajik sides

cost millions of pounds - one estimate suggests more than 11bn - because of the problems of bringing pipes and equip-ment to this isolated and mounis estimated 52 thousand tainous region. Delegates at an interna-

got it's name.

would smash into Afghanistan

at the T-junction where the

Bartang joins the Pyandzh

(known to history as the Oxus)

- the main river through this

part of Central Asia, and also

the border with Afghanistan.

Aid workers in Khorog, the

tional conference last year on the problems of Lake Sarez said the dam appears to be less stathat any such project should aim to preserve as much of the lake as possible because it has caused by the increased buildbecome the source of freshwater for the many communities is now threatens.

tration of water through the Environmentalists dam which appears to be movwant to preserve the lake because of the unique plant and Geologists who have studied animal life that thrives in its the problem believe it is im- pristine water.

LOCAL SHEPHERDS taking By JONATHAN RENOUP

donkey loads of EU aid up to the regional capital, (luckily uphigh pastures above Sarez lake stream of the danger zone) rerace up in 4 or 5 hours, but it assure themselves that there took me all day to get there. A thin path leaves the valley floor have been numerous earthquakes in the Sarez area, before and climbs up the side of the setting off up the valley. It is a rubble dam, hugging the juncfavourite assignment - the potion with the mountainside. tential danger notwithstand-The dam chokes the valley with a huge turbulent mass of rock Below the dam the river and rubble - 4 kilometres wide

winds for more than a hundred kilometres, hemmed in by bare, honey coloured cliffs which soar towards snow capped 6,000 metre peaks. Strung along appears quite suddenly from behind the shattered moonthe valley floor are a succession of pretty villages, oases of vivid green amid the austere scape, a shimmering, vibrant algrandeur of the mountains. most unnatural blue. Steep Each village is surrounded by cliffs plunge straight into the fields - lush green at this time water, and it is completely barof year - irrigated from long ren. Above the dam, a giant scar channels which hug the hillmarks the spot where the sides, bringing meltwater from mountain fell away and dammed the valley. On a cold February night in the mountains. Shepherds take sheep and goats up side valleys

1911, the village of Usoy was to high summer pastures. Everyone in the valley wiped out when the huge landknows about the danger lurking slide - triggered by an earthat the top of the valley, but they quake - filled the valley to a depth of 800m, 180 people died appear phlegmatic. There is that night. Within days the nothing they can do to stablocked river began to fill bebilise the dam. The inhabitants of the original Sarez village hind the new dam - eight were resettled before the flood months later the village of Sarez went under, and the lake waters reached them.

But the extremely rugged If Sarez bursts its dam, the mountain territory does not death toll will be in the tens of have the capacity to absorb thousands of displaced farmers thousands. A 70 metre wall of from the land downstream water would sweep down the Bartang valley, carrying dozens from the lake. of villages away. The flood

The villagers are stuck where they are. All they can do is pray that their misfortune ended with the 1911 earthquake. If their luck fails, the outside world will hear much more about their fate than the unfortunate inhabitants of Usoy 87 years ago.



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Israelis banish tribe to a dump

ISRAEL IS moving bedouin who used to graze their flocks of in Jerusalem sheep and goats in the Judean desert between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea to a 50-acre shanty town of corrugated iron huts on a stony hilltop beside Jerusalem's main rubbish dump. The aim is to empty the area of Palestinians in order to expand Jewish settlements and make it easier for Israel to claim in negotiations on the future of the West Bank.

"They came with belicopters, police and soldiers and destroyed our tents," says Suleiman Mazara, a member of the 7.000-strong Jahalin tribe of bedouin who used to encamp beside the road to Jericho. "People were dumped on this hilltop, where it is too rocky to drive in a tent peg. We live in houses made out of corrugated iron. It is very hot in summer and cold in winter."

On the road into the camp Bedouin children were scrabbling through rubbish, apparently brought from Jerusalem's main dump 500 yards away. There is a single water pipe, but no sewage system. In one place somebody had tried to build a garden, but had succeeded in growing only a few dried-out weeds. Some 20 goats were fenced inside a barn made out of old pieces of scrap metal.

over the Judean desert is an imgovernment," says Shlomo Lecker, a lawyer in Jerusalem who is trying to stop demolition of the Jahalin homes. "It is ethnic cleansing. It is easier to get rid of the bedouin than other Palestinians, because they are



Netanyahu: wants areas empty of Palestinians

weaker. They don't care whose authority they live under, so long as they have the right to

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, makes are "98 per cent empty of Palestinians". What he does not say in Israel." is that Israel has adopted a conscious policy of driving out Palestinians who do live there. After Israel captured the West Bank in 1967 much of the desert as many Palestinians as between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea was declared a military area. No building permits were issued. When the bedouin erected tents or shacks, demolition orders were issued.

engulfed by the Jewish settlement of Maaleh Adumim, whose red roofs house 22,000 people, and is spreading across the hilltops to the east of Jerusalem. From the hilltop camp beside the rubbish dump Suleiman Mazara has a clear view of this rapidly expanding settlement. He says bitterly: When you look at Maaieh Adumim you see people living there who have just arrived from Russia and Ethiopia. But the people like us, who lived there before, get nothing."
In fact the Jahalin have not

always lived east of Jerusalem. Before 1950 they lived in the Negev desert near present-day Beersheva, a semi-settled tribe, which grew flowers as well as herding sheep and goats. Chteiwi, a 90-year-old member of the Jahalin, recalls: "One day the Israelis arrived and gave us three days to get out. When we didn't go they came and set fire to our tents. We came to live between Jerusalem and Jericho which was then under Jordan."

When Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, half the Jahalin fled across the Jordan valley further into Jordan and half stayed where they were. But they found themselves "The general intent to take under pressure, because Israel portant part of the policy of the live and build their homes in the desert, which was viewed as belonging to the government. It was set aside for military use or for settlements.

"My father was still hoping we can go back to our homes in Beersheva," says Suleiman Mazara. "When he heard of the Oslo accords (between Israel and the Palestinians in 1993] he welcomed it. Two weeks after Oslo, the Israelis toid us to move from where we had been living since 1950. They stopped us grazing our flocks. They immediately started expanding Mazleh Adumim. They say it is military land and then use it for settlers."

The demolition orders and forced evictions have been stepped up. In February bulldozers demolished 100 shacks and tents in which 200 people were living. A foreign diplomat, who happened to pass at the time, says: "I saw children coming home from school to find their houses gone. I saw them burst into tears."

The Jahalins' mood is generally despairing. "My father used to have 90 sheep, but now he has only 10 because there isn't enough grass," says one the point that the areas on the man. "Our job is tending our an-West Bank Israel wants to keep imals. Now we must sell them and go and work as labourers

> The campaign against the Jahalin is only one aspect of an Israeli effort to rid the Judean desert and the Jordan valley of

However, the Jahalin say they would accept being moved from the Jericho road, if Israel would find them somewhere other than Jerusalem rubbish Shlomo Lecker says: "There is dump. Suleiman Mazara points no way for the bedouin to re- out that the land at Beersheva main within the law except to from which they were expelled in 1950 is still unused by Israel Some of the bedouin's old en- and there is no practical reason campments have already been they should not go back there.



A bedowin shepherd and his son by houses built for the new Jewish settlers. They were expelled from the area by the Israeli authorities



Warplanes raise tension in Cyprus

THREE TURKISH F-16 war- By Suleyman Erguclu planes left Cyprus yesterday in Lefkoniko after a one-day stay that has added to heightened tension on the divided island, following a retaliation for a visit by four Greek air force visit earlier in Greek F-16s and two C-130 the week.

F-16s took off from a small Turkish Cypriot airport in Lefkoniko also left. The Turkish newspaand circled before heading per Milliyet said yesterday that north towards Turkey. Local people cheered and waved at naval exercises near its westthe jets as they flew past.

Six F 16 warplanes arrived in the northern sector of the Mediterranean island on Thursday amid growing strains between Nato allies Greece Turkish F-16 fighters on the and Turkey. The other three jets island as simply grandstanding left on Thursday afternoon.

The Turkish move was in transport planes to the south-Witnesses said the three ern Cypriot air base of Paphos earlier this week. They have Turkey was planning to hold

ern border with Greece. Greece vesterday sought to play down the chances of a clash with Turkey over Cyprus. describing the presence of the

Eskimos surrender to lure of oil

Y KATHERINE BUTLER Nuuk

MEBODY at Greenlandair s a sense of humour. The film the flight between Copenigen and the farthest outst of the Danish Kingdom is ee Willy, the US-made box fice hit about a boy whose best end is a whale.

Half of the passengers are earing whale tooth pendants ound their necks. Some are rrying sealskin bags. Old uit men with ocean-going ces watch in bemusement the 20,000kg Orca evades an-

her slaughter.
Every fishing boat in the arbour at Nuuk, the capital of reenland, is equipped with a recording the mention where willy makes people istle with resentment. "Yes I ow it. A boy and a killer nale," Anthon Siegstad, head the national hunters associon says, shaking his head rds. "This is the kind of emoonal and cultural dishonesty nich has destroyed a way of



don't make films about your factory pigs and cows."

Sentimentality about the enalien to the Inuit psyche. Ani- ' time to time give itself up to susmals, like the land and the ocean, are held in a reverence for many people here. We and respect bordering on the capital people gather with rifles is too small to meet Greenland's

spiritual. But the Eskimo has never seen a conflict between dly as he looks out across the vironment or its inhabitants is whale or a seal should from

On the street corners of the

a day hunting seals. Under the rules of the International Whaling Commission, aboriginal whaling is still permitted but the quota of around 120 minke (unendangered) whales a year



domestic demand (whale was never exported) and even this is under sustained international attack

No Greenlander has ever clubbed a baby seal to death, yet they were tarred by GreenNewfoundland. Greenpeace later apologised but the damage was done. The markets for sealskin have been wiped out. after a two-degree drop in the with huge social and economocean temperature. ic consequences. Greenpeace

many Inuit villages. Commercial fishing, the only industry, is also under threat. Lucrative cod stocks have all but disappeared

Other economic hopes are remote. Tourism is almost nonexistent as there is no infrastructure and Greenland remains dependent on Danish grant aid for 60 per cent of the national income

But Greenlanders could be sitting on a gold mine. The helicopters of multinational oil companies and mineral prospectors are swarming over the biggest island in the world.
And the rumour is that after years of mactivity - the last cry-olite mines closed in the mid-1980s, Greenland is on the brink of a mining explosion.

Two weeks ago, the Prime Minister, Jonathan Motzfelt, signed off-shore exploration licences for the Scandinavian oil giants Statoil and Phillips in the Danish Strait, the waters between Canada and Greenland. Seismic testing has shown exciting results. Potential oil and gas basins cover 400.000 square kilometres. New technology means drilling at 1,200 metres is possible, reducing the danger of collision with icebergs.

In a key political development meanwhile on 1 July, after a long battle with their ul- choices." timate rulers the Danes, Greenlanders will secure full control of the administration of The revenue would release Greenland from its economic could go down hill. "This is a

The port of Nuuk (right) could make a fortune from oil, while the eskimos' traditional lifestyle is under threat Katherine Butler

of mining companies and we have a continent full of minerals on our hands. This could be the basis for a new relationship," says Lars Vesterbirk. the man who negotiated Green-land's secession from the then

But mining risks bringing Greenlanders into conflict once more with environmental groups and radical animal rights movements. The Arctic environment and ecological balance is "extremely vulnerable", says John Walter, a Greenpeace International spokesman. "Pipeline technology is untested in these conditions," he says, adding that there would be huge risk of spills. Oil running through the pipe radiates heat and destaises ice. And if there is a spill, it would be frozen for nine months of the year which would be an ecological disaster.

Apart from the environment, a Klondike scenario opens up the prospect of cultural and social upheaval. Studies comparing what happened in Alaska have been commissioned by the government.

Meanwhile, public support for mining is growing. Twentyfive years ago when Lars Vesterbirk went around Greenland's outlying communities to talk to Inuit people about mining, he was met with stones and rotten eggs. Now he says: "Resistance has crumbled. Younger ones know it is the key to political independence and prosperity and all the political parties are now agreed it is the only way to broaden our economic base. The cod are not

coming back." Adrian Redmond believes the potential for mistakes is enormous. "The consequences could be colossal. It would be very worrying if Greenland was to go the same way as Alaska. That is why everyone must be involved in deciding on the

Nuuk, a sleepy, port town of 13,000 people, a church, a hotel. a couple of bars and a few mineral resources. That will al- shops, would be at the centre most certainly lead to a big of an oil boom. It could become surge in Arctic mining activity. Las Vegas overnight he says, and the rest of the country



A fisherman slaughters a seal Kotherine Butler

dependence on Denmark, Political ties with Copenhagen could be severed leaving Greenland to decide its own terms for international negotiations such as the US airbase at Thule.

"For years people have been saying there's gold in them thar hills," says Adrian Red-mond a British consultant, "but the geologists now believe they are on the verge of something

Other mineral-rich parts of the globe might be easier to ac-cess but they lack political stability. The big question is whether the resources here can be extracted profitably.

Canadian prospectors sitting in the bars of Nuuk speak with wide eyes of the gold, diamonds, rubies and opals they have seen. Big Canadian names such as Falconbridge, Cominco and Platinova have taken out licences to explore along most of the western coast. US and Australian interests have also arrived.

Greenland's leaders are confident they could interest the European Union in a major

moral political and ideological dilemma for Greenland because the nation could simply drown if the wealth comes too quickly."

Extraction of minerals would seriously challenge the Inuit concept that it is not possible to privately own land. Another question is how would the wealth be managed. Would Greenlanders wisely hold spending at today's levels or would they spend it all and be-come the sheikhs of the Arctic?

The debate will put immense strain on the Inuit desire to be a modern independent people with the necessary self-determination to protect their culture and ethnic uniqueness.

"We are living in the modern world and have the same economic needs as everyone else. We are not here to live out the fantasies of white people about Eskimos," says Aqquluk Lynge, chairman of a pan-Inuit move-

But how the Inuit will hold on to their cultural heritage and even their language, in the face of the inevitable new colonialism of the oil and mining giants mining deal. "Europe has a lot remains unanswered.

TERESA POOLE

'He was nick-named "One Chop Zhu" for cutting through the bureacracy for foreign investors'

WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 5



Waiting for Boris to give me my salary

very little this week. He has sat banned. Instead Mr Stasyuk in the sun, taken the occasional stroll swotted flies, chatted with friends. Yet his time has been well spent. He and 250 other miners are camping outside the White House, the headquarters of the Russian government, in the middle of Moscow. For months the na- and salad. This does not imtion's coal miners have been press Mr Stasyuk. He does not protesting about late wages, dangerous conditions, and pit closures. They have blocked the Trans-Siberian railway and beld directors hostage. But Mr Stasyuk and his colleagues decided to take their grievances to the heart of the capital itself. This month they set off by train from his home in Vorkuta, a gulag Arctic city built by Stalin in the 1930s, and arrived - three days later - to set up a makeshift encampment. As he and his work mates sat there all week, a knot of human indignation, they whiled away the hours by reading the papers.

MONDAY'S HEADLINE: "Moscow suffers record-breaking heat." Mr Stasyuk is not used and his work mates left Vorkumade hats out of newspapers, and are wearing home-made paper nose shields. It would be this protest is tightly disciplined. The men know one inprovide an excuse to the police beneath the tundra. When he

VLADIMIR STASYUK has done to move them out. Alcohol is drinks kvas, a soft drink made from fermented rye bread. Gallons have been delivered by the capital's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov. The mayor, who wants to be president and knows a voter when he sees one, has also sent along pies much like Moscow. Its wealth

- the new Jeeps and Mercedes, the casinos and boutiques - serves as a brash and constant reminder that his wages have ended up in someone else's pockets. The contrast between the capital and his own monotonic city is vast.

"Clearing up after English yobs

riot at the World Cup". The

HEADLINE:

TUESDAY'S

paradox has not escaped Mr Stasyuk. Drunk and porcine youths from Britain, a rich and stable country, storm through the streets for no good reason, while the people of Russia - a vast nation on its knees - calmly struggle on. Yet few have more reason to riot than he. He only ended up in Vorkuta be-WEDNESDAY'S HEADLINE: to this. Temperatures have cause of a nasty trick of historeached 35 degrees. When he ry. In 1944, Stalin's secret police sent his father to the Arctic ta it was only just above freez- mines, along with every other ing. Now the miners are male in his home town in getting sunburnt. They have Ukraine after they were swept up in a mass arrest sparked by the murder of a Russian soldier. Mr Stasyuk had little choice but tempting to start drinking, but to spend his life literally hacking a livelihood for his wife and two daughters out of the



Miners holding their sober vigil outside the White House in Moscow this week

the miners had become the élite of the Soviet work force. The pay was good; his apartment was cheap, and he got 43 days' holiday a year. Now the

industry has collapsed; seven of Vorkuta's 13 mines have closed. As conditions deteriorate, there have been accidents. In 27 January, miners died in a shaft explosion in

"Anatoly Chubais, chief architect of Russia's economic transition, returns to power". Mr Chubais, back in the government after being sacked in March, has long favoured a radical overhaul of Russia's coal mining industry, which is hugely subsidised. The government, helped by the World Bank, is closing about half Russia's 200 pits. Tens of thou-

garet Thatcher's in the early 1980s: miners in loss-making pits must find something else to do. Mr Stasyuk, 44, has tried that. He has a passion for making plastic model American and British war planes. A few years back, he tried to sell them in the local market. It was a flop: his stall was no pitched up, demanding a fee. I wasn't in the business for very long," he said. He tells his story to illustrate a larger point: that it is far harder for Russian miners to find a new job than the government seems to realise. There's not

THURSDAY'S HEADLINE: "Russia Buys Time by raising \$2.5bn on the international bond market". The governground, more than half a mile sands of jobs have already ment urgently needs the SOME OF them have been

much choice in the Arctic.

started work two decades ago, are for the chop. The Kremlin's loans which it needs, in turn, message is the same as Mar- to pay wages. Billions are flowing in and out of the coffers every week as the Kremlin carries on this desperate balancing act. Will any of this money ever reach Mr Stasyuk? A few days ago, a minister told him and his friends that their wages had been sent to Vorkuta. They checked. No one at home knew anything about it. sooner laid out than the mafia Last month, Mr Stasyuk was actually paid. But his wage packet - 3000 roubles (£300) -was for September 1997. He does not expect the situation to improve - "I see no prospects in life, in the economy or in the government" but his gloom is briefly relieved by today's two small triumphs: a free lunch in a factory canteen and the arrival of dozens

lying towns since Monday.

Later, the leader of the Russ-

ian Communist Party. Gen-

nady Zyuganov, also turns up.

He gets a less ecstatic wel-

come. The Vorkuta miners

have fallen out of love with

Boris Yeltsin - once their hero

- but they don't much like the

Communists either. Their

home is, after all, a the burial

ground for Stalin's victims.

Friday's headline: "Miners

break into Parliament". About

a dozen of them, to be exact.

They banged their helmets

on the floor, and handed in a petition demanding Boris Yeltsin's impeachment. It co-

incided with a decision by par-

liamentarians to set up a

commission to consider the

issue. But such threats have

come and gone before, and are

largely symbolic. Mr Yeltsin's

chances of keeping his job are

friends know very well - far

as Mr Stasyuk and his

PHIL REEVES

stronger than their own. gone, and many, many more money to pay back short-term marching to Moscow from out-

of banner-waving scientists,

who join their protest.

Chinese. warm to Clinton visit

The 75-year-old man visiting Peking from the north-west province of Shanxi was adamant. "If a Chinese leader had a sex scandal like Clinton, he could not be a Chinese leader any more. The ordinary Chinese people cannot accept this sort of thing."

. What the old man could not understand was why there was any controversy in Washington over Bill Clinton's star role next week in a welcoming ceremony in Tiananmen Square. "Tiananmen Square is a symbol of the People's Republic of China It has the Monument to the People's Heroes. Every foreign leader should visit there."

China is gearing up for its most important state visit since the bloodshed which ended the June 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations. Unlike many right-wing American politicians, most ordinary Chinese welcome the President's venture. "His visit is extremely helpful for improving China's economic development," said one man. 'Clinton's visit is conducive to improving the human rights situation in China," said an as-

sistant in a department store. Last weekend, the US Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott. warned that Mr Clinton faced a "public relations disaster" if he visited Tiananmen Square during the visit, from 25 June to 3 July. The US House of Representatives earlier passed a non-binding resolution urging him not to attend the welcome ceremony.

But for those Chinese people whose interests are so close to American politicians' hearts. the issues surrounding Mr Clinton's visit are not always clear

A Peking businessman said

By TERESA POOLE in Peking

Mr Clinton's trip might pro mote more liberalism in China He was impressed by the plan for Mr Clinton to host a live radio phone-in programme in Shanghai, and was curious to hear what he would say. "Sooner or later a Chinese president should do that, it is natural," he said. He thought the Tiananmen Square weicoming ceremony was "also controversial in China. Some people are in favour of that, some are against".

Whether the Chinese gov ernment likes it or not, Mr Clinton's arrival and his public addresses here will turn the world's spotlight on the country's human rights record and some see this as an opportunity. Peng Ming, who runs an independent policy research institute, said: "The US government and Western governments should put some human rights requirements to the Chinese government." He hoped the state visit would encourage China to sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Peking has said it will.

But on the question of the Tiananmen Square ceremony, Mr Peng backed Mr Clinton. " China's distinguished guest, I think Clinton should attend the ceremony because that is the routine, and he should respect the Chinese courtesy."

Some dissidents and the families of June 1989 victims have spoken out against the ceremony. Ding Zelin, whose son was killed in the crackdown and who has campaigned for others who lost relatives, said: "The red carpet is dyed with the blood of our relatives who have fallen."

Leading article, page 3

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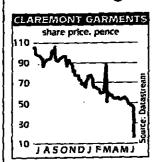
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

RAC members approve spin-off

THE ROYAL Automobile Club yesterday moved closer to demutualisation as its members overwhelmingly endorsed a proposal to spin off its roadside assistance service. The vote at an extraordinary general meeting was the first step in a two-stage process to sell RAC Motoring Services to US direct marketing group Cendant for £450m. Following the reorganisation, members plan to vote again in August on whether to complete the sale.

Results snag hits Claremont



SHARES IN Claremont Garments fell 23.5p to close at 15p after the textiles company confirmed it would file its annual results by June 26. The listing was earlier suspended pending the announcement, after dropping as low as 10p. Dealers said Claremont, which produces lingerie and

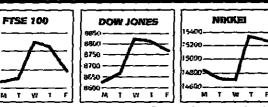
Spencer, had been hit by a combination of negative factors, including a report in Investors' Chronicle that Claremont shares faced suspension by the Stock Exchange if the company failed to file its results by 27 June.

Claremont had planned to release its results in March. the report said, but while the accounts were being compiled the accountants found a "black hole" of unpaid import duty. Since then, auditors have been trying to establish the scale of the tax burden Claremont faces. The tax bill will come on top of a significant loss for the year, outlined by Claremont in a profits warning in March.

Torotrak to raise £50m

BTG SAID its shareholders will receive one share in its Torotrak engineering subsidiary for each share they already own in BTG after the company goes ahead with a planned spin-off of the unit on 24 July. BTG, which specialises in patents for new technologies, will retain a 5 per cent stake in the company. It added that Torotrak plans to raise £50m in a rights offer following the spin-off to provide capital for the development of Torotrak's infinitely variable transmission system, which reduces vehicle fuel consumption by at least 20 per cent.. The demerger requires the approval of BTG shareholders.

STOCK MARKETS



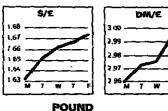
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US	5.69	-0.09	5.84	-0.25	5.52	-0.87	5.73	-0.95
Japan	0,56	-0.05	0,61	-0.21	1.58	-1.03	2.07	-1.04
Germany	3.55	0.44	3.89	0.62	4.82	-0.95	5.39	-1.19

CURRENCIES



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OTHER INDICATORS

	Clase	Chg	Yr Ago		todes.	Chg	Yr ago	Mest figs
Brent Oil	(\$) 11 01	0.31	17,33	GDP	11470	2.90	111.47	Aug
Gold (\$)	299.45	6.60	340.55	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91	Jun_
Silver (S)	5.30	-0.02	4.75	Base	Races		7.50	6.50
ALALIA (oloombe	rg.co	m/uk		SOUR	CE: B	LOOM	'et 5pie NBERG

www.bloomberg.com/uk

Indian (rupees)

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Malaysia (ringgits)

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Japan (yen)

TOURIST RATES

2.6330 Australia (\$) Mexican (nuevo peso) Netherlands (guilders) 3.2718 20.40 3.0729 Belgium (francs) 12,35 Norway (krone) Canada (\$) 2,3902 295.15 0.8468 Portugal (escudos) Cyprus (pounds) 11.13 Saudi Arabia (rials) Denmark (krone) 8.8714 Finland (markka) Singapore (\$) 9.7397 245.60 Spain (pesetas) France (francs) 8.7741 Germany (marks) 2.9135 South Africa (rands) 12.94 Greece (drachma) 490.04 Sweden (krone) 12.53 Switzerland (francs) 2.4337 Hong Kong (\$) 62.88 Thailand (bahts) ireland (punts)

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Rates for indication purposes only

Source Thomas Cook

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BT lines up major US pact

BRITISH TELECOM is on the verge of BY PETER THAL LARSEN signing a major strategic alliance in the US which would go some way to making up for the failure of its merger with MCL An announcement is expected to be made next month.

BT is believed to be in detailed negotiations with AT&T, the US longdistance giant. It has also held talks with Bell Atlantic, the local operator.

Shares in BT rose above 700p for the first time in their history yesterday on reports that BT'S chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, and Michael Armstrong, his counterpart at AT&T. had agreed to form a joint venture which would include the two companies' international businesse:

Both companies refused to comment Shares in BT firmed 5.5p to 700p in a falling market as analysts welcomed the prospect of the company finally finding a US partner. "It's all very well being a strong player in Europe, but you have to make your mark in the US," said one.

However, analysts were unsure how an international alliance would be structured. British Telecom executives are particularly keen to find a way for Concert, the subsidiary which specialises in offering specialised telecoms services to multinationals, to gain access to businesses in the US.

Although Concert has been successful at picking up business in the and AT&T would involve BT winding UK and Europe, the US market offers much more potential because most

multinationals are based there. However, a partnership with AT&T would raise potential conflicts. The US group has a 36 per cent shareholding in World Partners, the global telecom alliance which includes KDD, the Japanese giant, Singapore Telecom and Australia's Telstra. World Partners offers similar services to Concert.

Meanwhile, AT&T also offers similar services to large companies in Europe through its joint venture with Unisource, the alliance of Dutch, Italian and Swiss telecoms operators.

As a result, an alliance between BT up Concert and switching its customer base to World Partners. Alternative ly, AT&T would pull out of Unisource to join Concert.

Analysts said the move would ease the ferocious competition in the multinational telecoms market. "Structurally, for the multinational market it wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing if two of the largest players decided to collaborate rather than compete," said Deborah McCutcheon, telecoms analyst at Robert Fleming. "But it would require an enormous amount of back-tracking by both companies." Any deal between BT and AT&T - general meeting on 15 July.

the dominant players in their respective markets - would be subject to detailed scrutiny from competition authorities in the US and EU.

Nevertheless, BT is shortly expected to announce a US partnership of some kind. Its strategy is still officially on hold until it receives the \$7bn (£4.3bn) cash payment from MCI which will only arrive once the MCI-WorldCom deal is completed, proba-

bly towards the end of July. However, this does not stop BT from unveiling other partnerships. Analysts believe that the company may choose to make further announce. ments around the time of its annual

NAMES AT Lloyd's of London market's executives, claiming corporate members were trying to buy them out of the market "on the cheap".

Names at the annual general meeting said managing agents had made alarmist statements about tough conditions in the market. This reduced the value of their holdings, so that corporate members could buy them out.

Lady Rhona Delves-Broughton, a Name, said: "Many Names are here for the long term. We are here to

Lloyds Names yesterday launched a barrage of criticism against the market's executives claiming dig their heels in

make money and not to be bought out on the cheap."

Members' agents such as Roberts & Hiscox have recently urged Names to leave the market by next year. claiming premiums are so low there is little profit to be

But the Names complain that members' agents, who look after the interests of individual Names, are also managing agents for corpo-

rate members, which could benefit from a cheap sale.

Michael Deeny, another Name, said: "It is being asked whether a few individuals are trying to panic Names into leaving the market so they can buy their capacity at the bottom of the underwriting cycle. Experienced Names will reject this black propaganda."

The comments followed a speech by Max Taylor, chair-

man of Lloyd's, in which he reassured Names there were no plans to get rid of the annnal venture, the costiv means by which Names get exposure to Lloyd's every

But he said Lloyd's had to adapt to the future. The trend was to permanent, corporate capital, he said.

Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lłoyd's members, said: "In the past there was no corporate capital and it was the individual members who bailed out Lloyd's of London. We resent the implication we are holding back Lloyd's of Lon-don. We are not Luddites." | dence, A managem is thought unlikely.

PDFM set to be sold for £1.8bn

UBS, THE Swiss bank, is looking to sell PDFM, its UK fund manager, in a deal worth up to £1.8bn. Industry sources said the bank had already identified potential buyers for PDFM, and that an announcement would be made within the next couple of weeks.

A UBS spokeswoman confirmed that the board was reviewing the role of PDFM. She said: "We are reviewing a number of activities. PDFM is one of those. Selling is one of the options, but it is not the only one." The spokeswoman added that she expected the UBS board to come to a decision about PDFM "in July some-

time". The decision to sell PDFM is understood to be a direct consequence of the UBS/SBC merger. The two Swiss banks announced plans to merge bank - the "new" UBS - next were booming.

month. Reports of culture clashes between PDFM, run by maverick fund manager Tony Dye, and Brinson, SBC's Chicagobased asset management arm. prompted intense speculation

about the future of PDFM. PDFM is believed to have told UBS executives that it would rather be sold than be integrated with Brinson. UBS is now looking to sell the fund manager to a financial institution which could guarantee PDFM operational independence. A management buyout

By Lea Paterson

Rumours about the identities of potential bidders were rife yesterday. Speculation focused on the large US banks, in particular Goldman Sachs. Some analysts predicted a deal with one of the larger European banks could be on the cards.

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney. said: "ABN Amro has been interested in money managers from time to time, and Commerzbank has been looking as well. In the UK, Halifax has the money to spend as well as an interest in the area."

Sources said any deal would need to have the backing of the PDFM management.

Mr Dye, PDFM's chief investment officer declined to comment. Mr Dye achieved a degree of notoriety after PDFM back in December, and expect took up a strong cash position to start operating as a single at a time when stock markets

> Fund managers are currently attracting heady stock market valuations, following the sale of Mercury Asset Management (MAM) to Merrill Lynch of the US for £3.1bn.

One analyst, who declined to be named, said: "MAM was sold for around 3 per cent of its assets under management you applied a similar figure to PDFM, that gets you to £1.8bn, although, to be frank, PDFM is unlikely to fetch that price. I would expect the price to be nearer to 2 per cent of assets under management (around

US deal frees Astra to pursue mergers

ASTRA, THE Swedish pharmaceuticals group, yesterday moved a step closer to a merger with one of its rivals as it regained control of its US joint venture with drugs group Merck in a deal worth a minimum \$4.4bn (£2.6bn).

The agreement frees Astra from a requirement to sell all its new products in the US through Merck. The arrangement was seen as one of the biggest barriers to a tie-up between Astra and another player in the rapidly-consolidating pharmaceutical industry.

mentioned as a possible partner for the Swedish group, although the company would not comment vesterday.

Under the terms of the com-

By Francesco Guerrera

plete control of the Astra Merck joint venture from July, but Merck will continue to receive a share of the company's revenue until 2008.

The Swedish company, maker of the best-selling Prosilec ulcer drug, will have the chance to buy out Merck's 50 per cent stake in the venture in 10 years' time for a minimum \$4.4bn in cash. The final payment will be determined by a complex formula based on the Zeneca of the UK has been average pre-tax income received by Merck in the previous three years, and could rise to

\$15bn, according to analysts. If Astra were to merge or be taken over, Merck would lose any right to income from new products but would receive compensation of up to \$1.5bn.

The deal will boost Astra profits by more than 5 per cent after 2000 and save \$100m a year in costs, although it would lead to a fall in earnings in the first two years of operation.

Merck's senior vice-president, Judy Lewent, said the deal would improve her company's profits from day one. The Swedish company, the world's 15th-largest drugs group, said it would merge

Astra Merck with its existing US subsidiary and rename it Astra Pharmaceuticals. The new entity will have 3,800 employees. It will be headed by Carl-Gustaf Johansson, Astra's executive vice-president.

Fury over Diageo job losses and closures

formed from the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, found itself at the centre of a jobs row yesterday after it announced 850 job losses and the closure of the group's Edinburgh head office.

The company is closing two bottling plants, one in Laindon, Essex, with the loss of 220 jobs, and another in Strathleven in Dumbarton with 500 redundancies. The closures are set to take place by autumn 2000.

However, the most controversial move is the decision to close Distillers House, the Edinburgh head office which employs 250 staff. More than half of these will be made redundant the operating businesses or and bungled handling of the antio save £200m a year.

DIAGEO. THE drinks business By NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

located in a new, smaller head office in the centre of Edinburgh. It is a decision even Ernest

Saunders, the disgraced former Guinness chairman, did not dare make after he finally won the bitter takeover battle for United Distillers in 1986.

However, Diageo denied it was reneging on promises to retain close links with Scotland and said it was not removing decision-making power from the country which produces some of the group's best-selling brands

Local MPs and union leadwith the rest either moved to ers were furious at the decision

nouncement, which had to be brought forward after news eaked on BBC Scotland.

John McFall, MP for Dumbarton said the action was outrageous and a betrayal of the loyal workers. Guinness said it had taken the decision after a five-month review.

It will invest £50m in a programme that will bring all cotch whisky production and the UK white spirits production facilities into Scotland. The three remaining plants are in Leven, Fife, Kilmarnock in Ayrshire and Shieldhall near Glasgow.

The action is part of Diageo's previously announced plants to cut 2,000 jobs as part of costcutting programme that is set

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

E LONDON

WORRIES THAT interest rates will be forced higher unsettled the stock market, and Footsie lost an early gain to end 64 points down at 5,748.1. Second and third-line shares were also in the doldrums.

Superstores were boosted by evidence of strong food sales in the weekly John Lewis Partnership survey, while drug stocks strengthened on the deal between Sweden's Astra and Merck of the US. BT was at one time up 25.5p in response to the rumoured link with America's AT&T; the shares ended 5.5p higher at 700p, a closing peak.

NEW YORK

BLUE CHIPS turned mildly negative in choppy early trading, weighed down by weakness in Walt Disney Co shares after Goldman Sachs cut its 1998 earnings estimates for the media and entertainment giant. firmer. Traders said the market

Technology issues were modestly was volatile due to the quarterly expiry of futures and options - the so-called "triple witch" - rather than events. "Triple witch is dominating most of the action." said Peter Coolidge, senior equity trader at Brean Murray & Co.

● TOKYO

REPORTS OF a possible merger between two ailing banks, Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Nippon Credit Bank, panicked the markets, but were denied by the banks and finance ministry. The Nikkei 225 index fell 93.56 points, or 0.61 per cent, to 15,267.98, after rising 4.39 per cent on Thursday.

Damon Carter, a director at DE Shaw Securities Japan, said: "The market railied because the government promised to let poorer institutions fail. If they let the banks merge, it's a contradiction in policy."

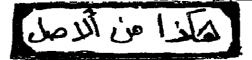
SOUTH AFRICA SOUTH AFRICAN markets were

sent reeling yesterday after an emergency rise in interest rates battered market confidence but failed to aid the rand. The Johannesburg All Share index ended off 123.4 points, or 1.75 per cent, at 6.919.9. Yesterday's fall followed a two-day rally that lifted the benchmark index from four-month low. The rand weakened to a record low of 5.53 to the US dollar from 5.4025 late on Thursday, amid fears of further fallout from Asia's economic crisis. US support for yea, page 21

GERMANY

SHARES WERE sharply lower in late trading, with sentiment depressed by early losses on Wall Street and the weaker dollar. Traders said the market had been supported earlier in the day by the expiries of the DAX future and stock options.

The DAX closed yesterday down 15.45 at 5.702.61. VW was the weakest share after strong gains earlier in the week: VW closed down DM37.95 at DM1,659.05 (£553), while Daimler Benz fell DM0.8 to DM165.5 and BMW was down DM4.5 at DM1,750.5.



Is it time the DTI was disbanded?

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, has had a had week. First of all, she was very publicly outmanoeuvred over the minimum wage. She wanted the Low Pay Commission's recommendations fully implemented, but she was overruled apparently because Tony Blair and the Chancellor thought the commission's proposals might résult in job losses at a critical point in the economic cycle.

Behind the scenes, the Treasury also put the kibosh on DTI proposals to introduce profit sharing into economic regulation of the privatised utilities. This was once a fully fledged policy for government when Labour was in opposition, proposed as a way of targeting supposedly excessive profits among the utilities. Since then it has been watered down and watered down. I'm told it has now been quietly buried altogether.

Then there was Mrs Beckett's speech to the British Chambers of Commerce annual meeting in Birmingham in which she chose to defend her record mergers policy. This went down like a lead balloon, not because anyone wildly disagreed with what she was saying, but because the subject of global mega mergers is about as relevant to the ordinary everyday concerns of small to medium sized business as a ten-



It looks like Mrs Beckett is about to get a final slap in the face before being put out to pasture in the summer reshuffle

Now it looks as though she's about to get the final slap in the face before being put out to pasture in the summer reshuffle. This comes in the form of the coal review, about which there was heated toing and froing between the Treasury and the DTI all this week. There could hardly be a more

coal mining industry. This is obviously a large number and for many of these people, there is no alternative employment near the pits where they work. Furthermore, mining has a special place deep at the heart of the Labour tradition.

In the scale of things, however, these jobs are a drop in the ocean. Certainly they wouldn't seem to justify the sort of intervention in the energy market needed to save them. Nonetheless, Margaret Beckett supported by the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson, who has chang to the coal review like a rock in the midst of all his other troubles, think the price worth paying. They want the present moratorium on all new gas fired power stations extended indefinitely. The effect of this would be to save remaining coal fired power stations from absolute extinction and thus guarantee a continuing market for the pits.

An ingenious way has been found for dressing up the policy. This would not actually be interference in the market, it is claimed, but rather an attempt to make the market more competitive. The new gas fired capacity hasn't increased competition at all, it is argued. Because most of it has been built on the basis of sweat heart deals with electricity distributors, it has instead dis-

ed investors to possible prob-

and once a famed Australian

agriculture group before de-

veloping into a sprawling food operation, had a sleepy final day

on the stock market. On Mon-

day it emerges as a slimmed-

down pig genetics business.

The shares ended 1p lower at

London Clubs Interna-

tional, the casino group, spun

9p higher to 150p. The shares have been in decline: a year ago

they topped 400p. The new

gaming tax has hit the group.

overdone and LCI is looking

Some believe the fall has been

A newcomer, the New Look

fashion chain, touched 182.50 in

first time dealings. The shares

closed at 169p against the 165p

sale price. Matalan, the fash-

SG Securities advising to sell.

by BT Alex.Brown's caution,

375p: Albert E Sharp is cau-

soon to be a Footsie con-

stituent, gained 22p to 412p.

nology Group, firmed to 785p.

Its Torotrak gearbox group,

being demerged next month, is

seen as a possible engineering

biotechnology company. BTG

shareholders get one Torotrak

for every share held. House-

builders had another poor ses-

sion: Barratt Developments

tumbled 20.5p to 287p and

ARM, the microchip group

floated in April, jumped 97.5p to

a 962.5p peak and Micro Focus

remained depressed by its US

acquisition, falling 25p to 427.5p.

Berkeley 35p to 647.5p.

BTG, the old British Tech-

Weir, the engineer, was hit

g 21p to 205.5p. Wolseley

lems at Claremont.

than this one. At stake are 5,000 jobs in the torted the market and prevented coal from I'M INFORMED by our New York corregetting a fair hearing.

All the same, an absolute ban on gas fired stations when there are still plenty of companies around who want to build them cannot in the end be seen as anything other than an infringement of free market principles, whichever way the argument is cut. The result is likely to be a messy compromise, a partial ban which allows both sides of the debate to claim partial victory.

But underneath the rhetoric, Margaret Beckett and the forces of old Labour will have lost again. Ironically, given how many policy disagreements there seem to have been between the Trade Secretary and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown may be the only one who can save her. They are old political allies and Mr Brown is nothing if not loyal. Alternatively, the time may have come to disband the DTI altogether and subsume its functions into the Treasury and else-

Given the regularity with which the Trade Secretary is losing the policy battle, it does rather leave you wondering what purpose the department now serves. The Treasury has always hankered after a wider role in the UK economy than that of controlling the nation's purse strings. Its

spondent that press coverage of the Goldman Sachs flotation in the US has been but a tiny fraction of the huge quantity of column inches devoted to it here in the UK, even though Goldman Sachs is a US based investment bank

Moreover, the tone of the reporting has been quite different. In the US the \$35bn float has tended to be treated as a straight business story and the analysis has concentrated on the merits or otherwise of converting from a partnership into a joint stock company. In the UK, a vast amount of space has been devoted to the story outside business pages, and usually it has been re-

ported as City fat cattery. This tells you a lot about the continuing cultural differences between the US and the UK. Despite the Thatcher reforms of the 1980s, we are still generally suspicious and jealous of uninherited wealth, unless it is made by sports and rock stars, which

seems to make it somehow alright. I don't want to act as a mouthpiece for Goldman Sachs (Td get paid a lot more than I am if that were my role), but personally I can see nothing wrong with the firm's partners and employees enriching themselves in this way. The raison d'etre of an investment bank is to make money. Some in-

purpose - we're there to help advance the general prosperity of the world and other such guff - but actually the most successful investment bankers are those wholly focused on the fee and the turn.

In the case of Goldman Sachs, this is their own business which is about to be floated. it is their hard work, commitment and expertise which has helped make it into the world's most profitable and successful investment bank, and nobody, apart perhaps from future generations of aspiring Goldman Sachs partners, is being disadvantaged or ripped off by the change.

The moral point about whether anyone 'deserves" such wealth is an irrelevance. Nobody "deserves" wealth on this scale for it is surely more than anyone could sensibly spend in a lifetime.

Nonetheless, we work within a tried and tested economic model. A system that encourages the concentration and reali-sation of wealth through honest endeavour seems to be better capable of creating wealth for all of us than any of the alter-

There is still a lot of hypocrisy in Britain when it comes to money. The Goldman Sachs partners should be held up as a role model for all, not pilloried as City fat cats.

Witching hour passes quietly as shares slip

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

ASONDIFMAMI

Carpetright, ahead of fig-

ures next week, tumbled 24.5p

to 316p. There are fears that the

carpet chain's impressive prof-

its record has come to an end. BT Alex Brown is looking for

£35m but admits that after the

Easter washout this could be

Claremont Garments spent

much of the day suspended

CARPETRIGHT

MARKET REPORT



PAIN

THE FEARED double witching was completed without even a hint of excitement,

During the often-frantic 20 minutes when there can be a scramble to influence the Footsie calculation as futures and options expire, trading was described as "quiet and orderly".

It was all a sharp contrast to the March double witching when Footsie swung violently as expiry pressure and the vagaries of the order-driven tradof chaos.

The Stock Exchange was so apprehensive this time that it took the unusual step of con-tacting firms to underline the dangers of volatile trading and the need to take care when dealing for clients.

Footsie, however, had a poor session as fears of higher interest rates eroded confidence. The index ended 64 points off at 5,748.1. Earlier it managed a 19.2-point gain.

. 2-5.

37.

Supporting indices were again in the dumps with the mid cap down 60.7 at 5,598.5. This sector has had a calamitous time since peaking at 5,966.6 last week, falling for eight con-

ing blue chip, up 27p to a 643p peak as take-over rumours

again circulated. Superstores were inspired by evidence of strong food sales in the weekly John Lewis Partnership survey. J Sainsbury produced an 8.5p gain to 520p and Asda (figures next week) firmed 3p to 195p.
Drugs shook off the gloom.

strengthening as the Swedish Astra group completed its signalled deal with Merck of the US. The new Astra/Merck lineup is expected to herald another round of consolidation in the nharmaceutical industry. Glaxo Wellcome added 13p 1,782p and SmithKline Beecham 4p to 735p. But Zeneca, thought to be Astra's favoured partner. failed to build on its Thursday gain, falling 15p to 2,610p. BT Alex Brown unsettled the shares with sell advice. :

BT's rumoured tie-up with AT&T dialled the shares 5.50 higher to 700p in busy trading. At one point they hit 720p. Cable & Wireless, with-

drawing its legal action against after tumbling 23.5p to 15p. It MCI, once BT's chosen partner, said it intends to announce its rose 1,5p to 675p. British Pe- annual figures "on or before" 26 troleum fell 28p to 831p but June - the day before the dead-Lehman Brothers has put an line. Robert H Lowe fell a fur-1,100p price-tag on the shares. ther 2p to 13.5p. Its profits

THE TWO quoted shares of Young & Co's Brewery rolled to new highs, the "A" gaining 40p to 790p and the nonvoters 30p to 652.5p. The ferment stems from moves by financial group Guinness Peat to streamline the family controlled group's old-fashioned share structure.

It has tabled resolutions to be considered at next month's shareholders meeting. GP has 17.7 per cent of the voting "A" shares; another class of voting equity is the unquoted "B" shares through which the company is_ controlled. GP director Blake Nixon says the "A" shares command a net asset value of 989p. "Few other listed pub groups' shares trade at any discount to net asset value".

Compass, the contract SEAQ VOLUME: 925.6m SEAQ TRADES: 75,523 Caterer, was the best perform-GILT INDEX: n/a

IN BRIEF

Mortgage rise ROYAL BANK of Scotland yesterday raised its mortgage rates by a quarter point to 8.75 per cent. The rise, which takes effect from July 1, was announced without any similar rise in savings rates. However, warning was said to have alert-Peter Wood, mortgage product director, said savers were promised higher rates than the average of Royal Dalgety, a relic of Empire

Bank's competitors: Orange loses

THE MOBILE phone operator Orange has been beaten for a licence for the third Irish mobile phone system by Meteor, the government's regulator announced yesterday. Orange already has a franchise in Northern Ireland and had been regarded as the front-runner for the Republic licence. Separately a consortium involving Orange and the Dutch telecoms group KPN was yesterday awarded the

Merger OK

Belgium.

third mobile licence in

A EUROPEAN Union antitrust ion chain, fell 6p to 302.5p with panel recommended clearance of the merger between WorldCom Inc and the building materials group provided MCI sells its falling out of Footsie, lost 20p to Internet business an industry source said tious. Advertising group WPP, yesterday. The panel of experts from the 15 EU states also requested clarification about how MCI would transfer its Internet retail customers to a new owner, the source said.

Sleepy talks

SLEEPY KIDS, the company that produces the animated television version of the Duchess of York's children's book Budgie the Little Helicopter,' said it is in talks to merge with another company after efforts to raise money through a bond issue failed earlier this year.

US will continue propping up yen

THE DOLLAR has continued its BY LEA PATERSON fall against the yen as a Japanese official confirmed that both the US and Japan were prepared to continue intervening in the foreign exchange markets in an attempt to prop up

the Japanese currency. On Wednesday it emerged that the US had spent around \$2bn (£1.2bn) buying yen in an attempt to halt the currency's slide against the dollar, the first such move for six years. Yesterday, the dollar slipped by almost 3 per cent to 133.87 yen, the dollar's lowest level for more than a month.

All eyes will now be on the weekend's G7 meeting in Tokyo, where Japan is expected to announce key structural reforms. Avinash Persaud, global foreign exchange strategist at JP Morgan, said: "The market believes there was a bargain made between the US Federal Reserve and Japan that the US Treasury would intervene in the markets if Japan announced meaningful

reforms at the G7 meeting." Lawrence Sur Deputy Treasury Secretary, has had a series of crisis meet-

plan to resolve its bad loan crisis before 12 July.

In a briefing Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives, said: "Early reports suggest that, whereas

RENEWED INTEREST rate over the psychologically important DM3 barrier. The pound touched DM3.002 after the London markets closed on Thursday evening, and hit DM3.001 yesterday.

However, sterling lost some ground against the German mark in late trading. closing at DM2.987, slightly down on the day.

Traders said fears of a rates hike were fuelled by Thursday by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of Enggrowth rate of domestic de-

ings with Japanese officials in under the old accounting rules. Tokyo. Yesterday he was said to Japan's banks appeared to have won a promise from the have provided against 80 per

provisions amount to as little as 17 per cent of what is needed."

Mr Lewis said the G7 meeting could be a "make-or-break test of the new world economic order". He predicted: "If the G7 fail to endorse a credible plan from the Japanese government, global financial relations could begin to unravel in a manner which will threaten, fears briefly pushed sterling at the very least, a prolonged depression in one-third of the world's economy. If, on the other hand, the meeting is successful, capital flows into what are perceived as safe assets are likely to reverse as investors regain their appetite for risk."

Japan is expected to unveil reforms to its banking system at the weekend, although some experts were yesterday predicting that these reforms would be unable to reverse the hawkish remarks made late yen's slide against the dollar over the longer term.

Mr Persaud was among the land. Mr George told MPs the sceptics. He said: "While these reforms are probably desirmand was not sustainable, able and necessary, they do aband that he saw little risk of solutely nothing to alter the driving the yen down." The yen will only reassert itself over the longer term if US interest rates are cut and Japanese rates are raised, Mr Japanese government that it cent of their bad loans, under Persaud said, an unlikely scewould come up with a detailed new loan classifications the nario in the current climate.

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Application has been mode to the London Stock Exchange for all of the New Ordinary Shares, New Income Shares and New Application has been mode to the London Stock Exchange for all of the New Ordinary Shares, New Income Shares and New Zero Coupon Preference Shares in Exmoor Dual Investment Trust PLC to be issued pursuant to the Placing and Offer to Zero Coupon Preference Shares in Exmoor Dual Investment Trust PLC to be issued pursuant to the Placing and Offer to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that listing will become effective and that separate dealings in the New Ordinary Shares, New Income Shares and New Zero Coupon Preference Shares will commence on 2D July 1998.

Ordinary Shares, New Income Shares and New Zero Coupon Preference Shares will commence on 2D July 1998.

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Share Capital The authorised and issued share capital of the Company immediately following completion of the

rue aumorised and issued sold of the Company's net asset value on 16 June 1998 and Reorganisation and Placing and Offer (on the basis of the Company's net asset value on 16 June 1998 and assuming full subscription of the Placing and Offer) is expected to be: Issued and to be Issued,: fully paid Number

55,425,833 13,856,458.25 77.865,833 19,466,458.25

Ordinary Shares of 25p each Income Shares of 25p each

Zero Coupon Preference Shares of 25p each 80.000,000 20.000,000,00 Copies of the Prospectus dated 19 June 1998 relating to Exmoor Dual Investment Trust PLC, which has Copies of the Prospectus dated 19 June 1970 tenning to June 1980 (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) been published, may be obtained during normal business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) been published, may be obtained during normal outsides about 1000 from:

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Theodore Goddard 150 Aldersgate Street

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Maxwell man's injunction fails

By JOHN WILLCOCK

Robert Maxwell's business empire, yesterday lost his attempt to block transmission of a BBC documentary on Sunday which contains details of a confession he made to police in 1992.

Mr Justice Lightman ruled in the High Court yesterday that Mr Bunn's confession to dishonest behaviour was in the public domain as it had been referred to in court during the first Maxwell trial.

Mr Bunn's lawyers issued a writ on Wednesday seeking an injunction against the BBC over its programme Nightmare on Elm Street, the second in the BBC2 series "Fraudbusters".

Mr Bunn's writ claimed that the confession which he made to police in 1992 and which was subsequently obtained by the programme was confidential.

Mr Bunn's writ had also sought an injunction against fendants, including the tycoon's Gollancz, publishers of a book Fraudbusters by the series producer and writer Mark Killik, Mr Justice Lightman rejected this application as well.

A transcript of the interview, which took place at Snow Hill Po- on the defendants.

lice station in London in October 1992 with Detective Inspector ROBERT BUNN, former finance Stephen Morgan, shows that director of the private side of shares in Berlitz International were pledged illegally as collateral for bank loans by the Maxwell private companies in order to raise funds.

DI Morgan states: "... So that would amount to an illegal use of the Berlitz shares?" Mr Bumn replies: "That's correct". DI Morgan: "You were in effect deceiving the Toronto Dominion Bank?" Mr Bunn: "Yes". DI Morgan continues: "On the

face of it, you've been involved here on a series of occasions in deceiving banks by telling them that shares that you believe are owned by Maxwell Communications are in fact owned by Robert Maxwell Group?" Mr Bunn: "That's right." DI Morgan: "And you'd accept that you acted dishonestly on these occasions?" Mr Bunn: "Yes".

In the first Maxwell trial Mr. Burm was among a series of desons Kevin and Ian Maxwell who were accused on fraud and theft charges. The defendants were cleared on all the charges. A judge later ruled that a second Maxwell trial would be "unfair"



Voderines autienti off-peck cells charged at \$p a minus. Applies to Voderines toffits during Voderines off-pect hours (7pm-Bum, off day Saturday and Sanday) Nor applicable to Bestone-Cell. Descils correct at time of going to press.

A time when Wimbledon played to a different tune

HIS FATHER played football for Glasgow Rangers... He wrote to Hitler pleading for the release of his rival from a Nazi jail... He enjoyed jazz but was spellbound by Pablo Casals. Such was the remarkable Donald Budge, the first player to win the lawn tennis Grand Slam.

It was 1938, yet it seems like yesterday when in my £12, 1926 Austin Seven buc-seater I made my way to Wimbledon. Its roof had long since blown away and was last seen disappearing along Constitution Hill and the radiator leak had been sealed by adding a raw egg to the water. It looked like it might rain, and later it da, but, with my green porkpie hat jammed on my head. I drove from Streatham Hill, carefully dodging the tramlines, to SE19. It was a short journey but it was a prelude to a love song which was to last a

In this pre-soundbite era, winning the Australian, French, Wimbledon and United States Championships in the same year did not have an epithet. That came when a bridge-

playing New York sportswriter compared Budge's then unique performance to winning all 13 tricks. Since then the Grand Slam has become the crown of tennis crowns to which only the greatest have aspired.

Howard Hughes had flown around the world in a record three days, 19 hours and 17 minutes: Princess Elizabeth became a Girl Guide and her young sister a Brownie: Bette Davis won an Academy Award for Jezebel. and they gave us gas masks. We knew there was going to be a war, and we danced the days and nights away trying to do all our living before the dying started.

For now the only battles we were interested in were the Test matches against the Australians and the Lawn Tennis Donald Budge (right) and Bunny Austin make Championships at Wimbledon which were the el-

egant climax to London's summer season. with a rover press pass in my pocket conly the autocrats of Fleet Street were allocated seats), I parked my car in a side road for these were the blissful pre-yellow-

The only protection The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club had from the outside world was a wooden fence in which there was an abundance of knot holes through which the public could get a free oneeyed view. For three shillings (15p), half that after live o'clock, they could have been inside, watching sporting history being made.

If Donald Budge is remembered at all these days, when ill-man- so and he did not change partners. and US Nationals twice.

LAURIE PIGNON

nered players often attract the largest crowds and monopolise the headlines, it is only because of his Grand Slam. What an injustice! He was not only one of Wimbledon's finest champions but a great athlete who played his game in the true Corinthian spirit. Even those who were crushed by his power, which had no weakness to exploit, liked him.

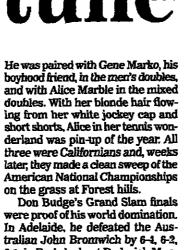
That is why hundreds had waited through the chilly and damp night to see him defend his title. Not even the most partisan among them, who longed for a successor to Fred Perry now barred as a professional), gave his opponent, Bunny Austin, much hope of producing a major upset. Even their support during the match lacked any real fervency. The applause was polite. Budge's play was

pages of The Tatler.

there were no casual quips or comments during a match. Even on the rare got rough, he never questioned a cali or lifted a ginger eyebrow. He was one of the gentlemen of lawn

As a boy Budge excelled Lloyd to take up tennis ball at which he used to bat

same rigid wrist and arm their entrance for the 1938 final Planet News action with a racket. It only needed the slightest adjustments to make it one of the



were proof of his world domination. In Adelaide, he defeated the Australian John Bromwich by 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; in Paris he beat Roderich Menzel of Germany 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; at Wimbledon Austin 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 and Mako 6-3, 6-8, 6-1, 6-1 in New York. But what of the man with the singing racket? The Americans called him "The

Untouchable". He stood at just over six feet and was a lean 12 stones. His hair was flaming red, his pink face was slightly freckled, and his eyes, which never lost sight of the ball during play, were as blue as the heavens. He played in immaculate long flannels and carefully

whitened shoes. In his white Davis Cup blazer he looked like a champion who had stepped out of the

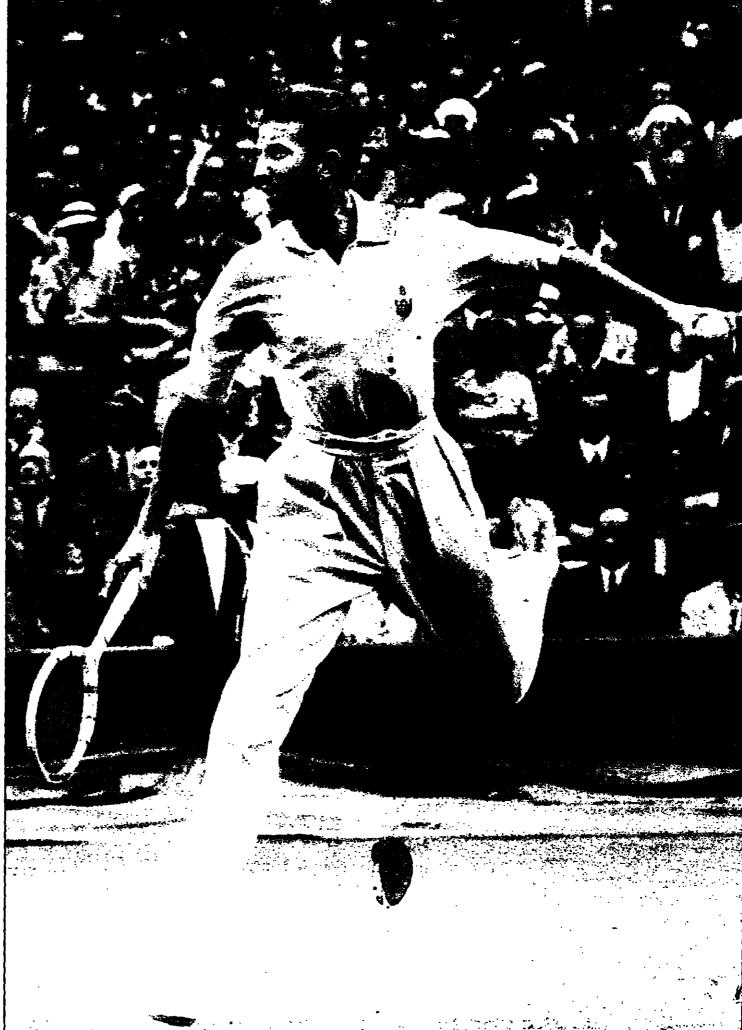
Unlike Fred Perry,

at sport. American football had endowed him with blind courage and baseball was responsible for producing one of the most devastating backhands ever seen. When at 17 he was persuaded by his father and older brother seriously instead of baseleft-handed, it seemed nat-

ural for him to use the

game's classic strokes. Budge had only been working on his tennis for a few weeks when he was persuaded to enter the Califormian Boys' Championships where he met and defeated, Gene Marko, the junior prodigy of the day, in the final. This meeting was to have a profound effect in the development of the future world No 1.

Unlike Budge, Marko was outgoing, sophisticated and fun to have around. After he was beaten, Marko. foreseeing that Budge had the qualities of a champion, suggested that they teamed up as a doubles pair. They were to win both Wimbledon



Dan Maskell said of Budge: 'Never once did I see him quit on a shot, no matter what the pressure'

Graphic Photos

From the beginning they shared rooms, went to the same University and travelled together, and all the while Marko helped Budge overcome his natural shyness. They both had a love for jazz and were never without their records of Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey. But on the night that Budge won the French Championship in 1938, it was a different sort of music that captivated them both - the music of the

virtuoso cellist Pablo Casals. For two weeks, the great man had watched Budge master the unfamiliar tortures of the clay courts of Roland Garros, and they often had tea together. After the final, Casals said: "I have had much pleasure in watching you play. Come to my house tonight and I will play for you."

Budge was later to recall: "I accepted with great pleasure, and after dinner 10 of us climbed the stairs to Pablo's studio overlooking Paris at night. We sat on the floor as Pablo, with a spotlight on him, played

to rapture us all for some two hours." So much of today's sport is about sex, drugs and money, but when my old car was cheerfully chugging along on petrol at a shilling a gallon, Budge gave us a story that was as dramatic as any tragedy at the Old Vic. It was of the encounter between himself and the aristocratic and elegant Baron Gottfried Alexander

Maxmilian Walter Kurt von Cramm. Budge had defeated him in the 1937 Wimbledon final and, more importantly, in the Davis Cup just weeks later. While waiting to play the key match, von Cramm was called into the Wimbledon office and was told that Hitler wanted to speak to him on the telephone. All von Cramm was heard to say was "Jo mein Fuhrer" several times. Back in

the dressing-room he told Budge that "Hitler wanted to wish me luck".

Instead of being at Wimbledon in 1938, von Cramm was in a Nazi jail having been arrested by the Gestapo. Some said it was because at best he had only paid lip service to Hitler's henchmen, others claimed it was because of his suspected homosexuality.

Budge never asked the reason why. With the support of 25 of the world's best-known sportsmen, he wrote to Hitler pleading for the release of his rival. He never did get a reply. The German who oozed charm like cream spilling from a silver spoon was never seen at Wimbledon again. And 1938 was Budge's last year. After his Grand Slam he accepted a \$50,000 offer (then a small fortune) to turn professional. it was the same deal that he had ned down the year before because

his country wanted him to stay amateur long enough to win the Davis Cup. He was that sort of man,

In his first pro match at Madison Square Garden in 1939, he beat Ellsworth Vines in three sets, and on tour took his winning total to 21 matches to 18. He defeated Fred Perry 18 times to 11 and Bill Tilden 51-7. Dan Maskell wrote later: 💰 "Never once did I see Budge quit on a shot, no matter what the pressure."

And all this from a man whose father played for Glasgow Rangers and, because of lung problems, left his native Scotland to set up home on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge. I knew little of this as I made my way home, but it had stopped raining and I had been paid five shillings for a day's freelancing. I had seen one of the all-time greats, and now, 60 years later, I can remember

Sampras gunning for blood on the grass

PETE SAMPRAS calls it the heart of his year. From the clay at Stade Roland Garros and the French championship, where he has never won in nine attempts, to the end of Wimbledon where the command of his craft is most often at its zenith, ne chases his dreams across Europe, balancing the books in a mind that shapes points on court in terms of unanswerable explosions. This year, heading into Wimbledon on Monday, his record is played four coming home," he says. won two, and all the threads are waiting to be picked up by the world's No 1 player, 6ft 1in son of parents who find themselves too nervous to

watch him play at close quarters. Inspiration is unlikely to desert him at Wimb!+Jon, a championship he has won four times in the past five years and which he describes as "2pm first day. 2pm last day," the times which any defending champion and future finalist will have earmarked. Last year, before the final, the player described by the Associ-

'Pistol Pete' has had a poor year, but he is still world No 1 and eager to stamp his authority on rivals. By Barry Newcombe

he left the waiting room at the Royal Box end of Centre Court to savour the atmosphere before he played Cedric Pioline. He felt even more part of the tradition for doing so. "Wimbledon is

Austin, who was never quite able

to step out of the shadows of some-

body else's greatness, attempted

every form of attack possible. He had

seldom played better, yet all he had

to show for his noble efforts were four

games, three of which were in the

third set during which rain stopped

play for half an hour Budge had pro-

duced 167 winners and made only

one volleying error. He kept his ser-

vice so low that he recorded 10 net-

cord deliveries in the first 13 games.

year that Budge had completely

dominated The Championships by

successfully defending his Triple

Crown. He was the first man to do

This was the second successive

Half an hour in the company of this undemonstrative and relaxed athlete could convince you that there is no tiger in his soul, no fury to come through the racket hand, but you would be utterly wrong. Admittedly there are few clues that he is a tennis player except for the large lump on the thumb of his racket hand, shaped by a million serves or so, two million forehands, and the rest of the armoury which makes up

ation of Tennis Professionals at the start of the decade as "continuing to show flashes of brilliance."

Since Sampras unseated the defending champion, Mats Wilander, at midnight at Flushing Meadow in the US Open in 1989, the flashes have merged and Wimbledon finds him holding 10 Grand Slam titles, one fewer than Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver, two behind Roy Emerson, the leader in this field of excellence. Yet against that, Sampras has had a patchy year, beaten by players who had no apparent right to do so, stopped in the quarter-finals in Australia by Karol Kucera, halted in the French in the second round by the 97th-ranked player Ramon Delgado. this is the time when you have to volleyers can worry you. Richard

every year, and it was a big let-down. But it is over, I learned from it, and I only need to find a way to win on clay whether it is not and dry or cold and wet. I am one of the 127 players who did not win in France and fortunately there is always next week and we have this huge event com-

ing up here at Wimbledon. "If I go through this year without winning a major so be it. I don't want to put any more pressure on myself and I will be going out with the same preparation and the same attitude as in previous years - let's give it a

good shot. "There are a lot of things I want to achieve. I want to give myself a lot of help on the No 1 ranking this year, and then there is the Grand Slam record, that will keep me play-

ing at an unbelievably high level. "This year has not been great but

Sampras says: "I put a lot of em- come through, I can't think of a betphasis on the French this year. I do ter time to recapture my year. Ten years of playing does take its toll, travelling as much as I do, but you have to forget the past."

Sampras has a miserty approach to losing sets at Wimbledon. In 1993 he lost just four on the way to his first title, only one was surrendered the following year, six in 1995 and three last year when Pioline, the runnerup, was left saying: "When you play Pete he does not give you air, you cannot play against him because he is serving big and returning good, and it is so difficult."

Sampras won that final in 94 minutes, serving 17 aces out of 119 for the championship. His serve was broken twice in 24 sets, and Sampras admitted: "It is the best I have ever served in my career."

At 36, Sampras faces his 10th Wimbledon believing he knows who he should fear. "All the big serveKrajicek, Pat Rafter, Tim Henman. Greg Rusedski. When you are going with a serve like Greg has, add in the crowd and their support, and he is a definite threat. He has improved his return game, as he had to, because if you are going to win you can-

not just serve. "I love Henman's game, it is classical, and on top of that he believes in himself a little bit more. He has a country's weight on his shoulders but I like what he is all about. Greg is a lefty slasher. Tim has the power, no question, but it is not that easy

winning Grand Slams Sampras has rarely made promises or threats about Wimbledon where his serve, the best second serve, the best forehand, the best overhead in the game, and an ice cold approach to the business of winning have paid rich dividends. At the same time he has been labelled boring because he can dominate



Sampras: In pursuit of record

no contest. Yet given the chance and the gifts, all champions would take the Sampras route, to meet the task, control, and then subdue. "You are thinking about taking your opponent's heart out and squeezing it until all the blood comes out. even the very last drop, and you have matches so completely that there is won," he says.

England have won the World Cup!

well, bye bye detached appre-

ciation, helio one-eyed parti-

sanship. Ich bin ein Korean -

competitive sport doesn't make

any kind of sense unless you

take sides. And right now, a

week and a half into the great-

est sporting show on earth, we

are still at the heady stage

where fantasy has yet to be

So stock up the beers, run up

the flags, because England

have won the World Cup! Or as

proven vain.

The truth is that watching

IF IT all goes wrong for England in France - and I'm not saying it will - but if, then I just hope I can respond in a mature way.

Let's first make one thing clear. I have never actually come to blows over the result of a sporting contest. Other than the time I was sent off for lighting in the South West Herts Youth League. And the occasion when I became fistically involved with one of my teammates after a disagreement over tactics. And the time I fought with my brother after watching Dave Bedford overwhelmed in the 1972 Olympic 10,000 metres final.

Having made that one thing clear, I have to admit that my reaction to sporting adversity er the years has involved ne in actions which have been, at best, unsporting. At worst, pathetic. My response to England's 1-0 World Cup defeat by Brazil in 1970, for instance, is not something of which I am



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

proud. Tearing every pictures of Pele, Jairzinho and co from my football magazines, I took them to the end of the garden and burned them with malevolent satisfaction. Chilling in

hindsight. Three years later, after seeing England prevented from reaching the 1974 World Cup finals by a persistently selfish Poland side, I stormed out of the front door and concluded a random journey by throwing a half brick into the garden of one of the posh houses in Chalfont Lane. How good did that feel! Not very good, in fact...

1982. The Keegan Miss. Despair. 1986. The Hand of God. Not fair. But these last two enormities were as nothing compared to the unacceptable trauma of losing to Germany on penalties in the 1990 semi-final Crushed, I sought solace in the local pub, downing three pints and defiantly programming the juke box to play Joy Division three times over My God, what a really magnificent gesture. -

In an attempt to prevent similar outbreaks of embarrassing behaviour during this World Cup, I attempted a little pre-emptive exercise. Why not, I thought, try to appreciate a game purely on its footballing merits? Why not take a leaf out of De Coubertin's book, and concentrate on the taking part rather than the winning?

The group match between South Korea and Mexico ap-

I was recently given se-quential proof that the trophy peared to have potential for the purposes of experimentation, as I had no feelings about either is destined for Glenn Hoddle's team. Things went tolerably men: 1966 winner, England: well until South Korea took an 1970, Brazil; 1974, West Gerunexpected lead. The joy of many; 1978, Argentina; 1982, their scorer was so palpable it Italy (for the purposes of this theory merely a historical turnburst through the television ing point); 1986, Argentina; screen and forced both corners 1990, Germany, 1994, Brazil. Ergo, in 1998, England comof my mouth up. When the said scorer was sent off soon afterplete the mirror image. Topowards for what was no more graphical certainties. than an over-excited challenge,

A couple of years ago, I at-tended an evening of World Cup reminiscence which began with Martin Peters talking an audience through the 1966 final. It was a rainy mid-week evening in Learnington Spa. and the audience in question was just short of embarrassingly sparse. At the back of the hall, an elderly man murmured the plot to his wife, anticipating ali Peters' name checks - "Wilson... Haller... Ball... Hurst...

The drama of those 120 minutes at Wembley has become legend - an Arthurian tale for the 20th century in which England's warriors come through adversity at the third time of asking to seize the Holy Grail. in future years, will other old men sit at the back of dusty hall's reliving the legendary combinations which brought England glory in 1998? Probably not. But not definitely not because the history of the 1998 World Cup is still a live, mal-

leable thing.
"Two minutes left, Owen's break forced the Germans to concede a corner and Adams, the "Lion of England", rose above everyone to head home the goal which officially ended

32 years of hurt..." Or perhaps this? "McManaman, who had started the tournament on the bench, applied the coup de grace to the Argentinians after a weaving run worthy of Maradona himself. England 1, Argentina 0. It

was all over.. Dream on. There is still time.

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Sanchez relishes the battle

JOHN ROBERTS at Eastbourne

VHEN ANNA Kournikova alked into the interview room, her right hand wrapped in a jacket, the suspicion was that she was either smuggling a trophy or concealing a weapon that would blow her Wimbledon rivals away faster than a Yonex racket. It transpired that she was hiding an injured thumb, the latest pre-tournament worry to set alongside Greg's ankle and Steffi's leg.

The 17-year-old Russian had scene of the the Direct Line Insurance Championships, following a second visit to a doctor since Thursday's impressive win against Steffi Graf. "The vhole thumb is swollen and has bruise on it like when you have a punch in the eye." Kournikova said, declining to display the damaged digit for phetographers who had been sneeping her all week.

Kournikova's face did not betray any great concern, and she emphasised that she expected to be fit to play her opening match against the American Kimberley Po at the All England Club next week. "The doctor said it was just a minor sprain in the ligament and that it would be better if I didn't put any pressure on my hand today," she said.

That gave Arantxa Sanchez Vicario a walk-over into today's final here, where she will play Jana Novotna for the 20th time her career (Novotna leads the head-to-head, 10-9).

The outlook is brighter than a year ago, when their final was abandoned because of rain with Novotna leading 6-5, on serve, in the opening set. The Czech won their only previous match on grass, in straight sets in last year's Wimbledon semi-finals.

Sanchez Vicario played one set yesterday, completing her third round match against the 16-year-old American Serena Williams, which had been delayed overnight. The Spaniard

won, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Williams finishing the contest with her right thigh bandaged and experiencing pain in the right knee and ankle. "I hurt because I'm not used to the grass," she said, adding, "I like the grass a lot. I think grass more or less forces you to attack, which is great for my game. I feel very confident on it, and I'm looking forward to playing at Wimble-

In contrast to their ill-tempered quarter-final at the French Open two weeks earlier, when Sanchez Vicario accused Williams of failing to treat her with respect, the returned to Devonshire Park, match here was in keeping with the sedate surroundings. "Serena played very well," Sanchez Vicario said.

While scurrying with her customary verve, the Spaniard viction. "I feel confident after winning the French Open," she said. "I would prefer to play the semi-finals to go to the final, but I am feeling very good about my

She is also happy to find herself in the same half of the Wimbledon draw as Martina Hingis, Venus Williams and Kournikova. "I think it's very exciting," Sanchez Vicario said. "Everybody is playing well. The more competition the better." Novotna played twice yes-

terday defeating the Romanian Irina Spirlea in the quarterfinals, 6-4, 7-5, having recovered from 2-5 in the second set, and proving too sharp for Natasha Zvereva in winning their semifinal, 6-2, 6-1.

 Richard Krajicek's Wimbledon preparations are in doubt after he pulled out of an event in the Netherlands. The 1996 champion was forced to withdraw from the tournament in Rosmalen because of an injury to his left knee. He will visit a physio in Rotterdam today before assessing his chances. Britain's Miles Maclagan beat Gerald Mandl, of Australia, as the Wimbledon qual-



Jana Novotna leads 10-9 in her head-to-head clashes with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Bjorkman recovers his form

BY GUY HODGSON at Nottingham

IT CANNOT be easy being the Swedish No 1. Borg, Wilander, Edberg - it reads like a list of all-time greats, never mind a top player from a single country. But the mantle to match these illustrious predecessors has fallen on Jonas Bjorkman.

A good fist he is making of it, too, judging by his week so far at the Nottingham Open. True, the field is not the strongest, but the Swede has survived longer ifiers finally completed the first round at Roehampton yesterday. Maclagan was joined in the than the world No 2, Marcelo Rios, and he is recovering from second round by Nick Weal.

in March and April. Yesterday, he defeated Ger-

many's David Prinosil 7-6, 6-3 and faces a semi-final and a final today, if he is successful, which would be a worrying workload with Wimbledon only two days away if he was not looking for matches to regain his sharpness. "The more I play the better," he said. "Maybe I was burned out by last year, but I got a virus and had to take antibi-

otics for three weeks." That lay-off helped drag fourth in the world to ninth, but pretty good for someone who

anywhere it wili be at Wimbledon where he lost ignominiously in the first round last don is to get past the first year Indeed, his record at the round, then I might go far." All England Club is puzzling.

He prefers to attack the net rather than stick to the baseline - "I like to finish points quickand ideally his game is suited to grass. In theory. So far in four years, he has managed only four wins. "I can't say why," he

an illness that debilitated him if he can pick up a lot of points was ranked in the 80s. since then I can't say I have done my best. My ambition for Wimble-

Bjorkman began at a rush, breaking Prinosil in his first game, but he lost his accuracy with his first serve, was broken by I don't have the patience of back, and took the first set other Swedes who stay back" - with a tie-break that was notable in that eight of the 12 points went against the server. After that it was pretty routine and he will now play France's said. "In my first year I reached Jerome Golmard, who defeat-Bjorkman from his 1997 rank of the fourth round, which was ed last week's winner at Queen's, Scott Draper, 6-4, 6-3.

any negatives

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WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY

FOOTBALL NORS.D CUP: See page 31. INTERTOTO CUP: First round: Ebbw Vai (Wal) v Kongsvinger (Nor) (2.30) (ot Peny dorren Pork, Merthyr TydN).

TIMPSON MIDED TROPHY Cap sensi-flava formadoes v Wimbledon (12.30); Abstains v Aphrodisles (2.0); Platin sensi-finalis: Ca terbury v Havering (11.0); Bowden v Midd ton & Bognor (3.30); (Southgate HC).

HOCKEY

RUGBY LEAGUE TOUR MATCH: North Queensland Aborigi v BARLA (GB) (10,30am) (at Marceba). UB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Sheffield v St Helens (3,15).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Australia v Scotland (11.00am BST) (or Bristone); South Africa v Ireland (4.15pm BST) (or Pretorio); New Zealand v England (3.35am BST) (or Outerlin) SPEEDWAY PLITE LEAGUE: Coventry v Poole(7.30); Eastbourne v Beile Vac (7.30), PREMIER LEAGUE: Berwick v Arena Es-sex (7.00).

OTHER SPORTS MOTOR NACING: British Superbike Cham-planship, round five. (Donington Park). TENNUS: Nottingham Open, Direct Line Championships (Eastbourne); Wimbledon TOMORROW FOOTBALL

WORLD CIP: See page 31.
INTERTOTO CIP Parst round: Altay (fur)
v Sharmock Rovers (Rep of Irl) (7.0): Tauris Rimavska Sobota (Slovak) v Ornagh
Town (N Irl) (5.0).

HOCKEY THEPSON MIXED TROPHY: Place 3/4th (10.0); Cup 3/4th (11.30); Plate final (1.15) Cup final (2.45). (Southgale HC).

RUGBY LEAGUE R U G BY LEAGUE: Huddersfield v Hull (6.35); London v Castleford (3.0); Salford v Bradford (3.0); Wigan v Warrington (3.0); Bradford (3.0); Wigan v Warrington (3.0); Swinton v Widnes (3.0); Wakefield v Hunslet (3.30); Wakefield v Hunslet (3.30); Workv Bramley (3.0); Barrow v Workington (3.0).

SPEEDWAY ELITE LEAGUE: Oxford v Eastbourne NER LEAGUE: Newport v Exeter (2.30).
PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow v Bervick (7.30); EdInburgh v NewCastle (6.30).

OTHER SPORTS TENNIS: Nottingham Open: Direct Line Championships (Eastbourne): Wimbledon qualifying (Rochampton and Civil Service sports ground).

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"When I lose my temper I don't send people flowers. I said something very low between him and me. I have seen other players say much worse and nothing happens or they just get a warning"

Cedric Pioline , after being thrown out of the Nottingham Open for verbal volleys at the umpire. "How's the hand? Haven't you anything else to say to

me, like congratulations Anna Kournikova after overcoming a thumb injury to beat Steffi Graf at Eastbourne

When he misses a putt he frowns. When he makes a putt he frowns. Occasionally, he might grin with apparent sarcasm before frowning" American journalist describing Britain's Colin Montgomerie before this weekend's US Open.

"It sucks" Big-hitting John Daly, reflecting on the nature of the US Open course in San Francsico where he was unable to use his driver on any of the 18 holes

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

4.30: PERFECT PEACH, who

ran well first time out this sea-

son, looks the pick of the

weights and will be hard to

beat Grand Estate looks the

REDCAR

3.15: CZAR WARS, fully effec-

tive in the mud and a fairly pro-

gressive sort, looks sure to go

close. Elijanah is the obvious

danger but might be better for

3.45: RANGATIRA, from a sta-

ble which also has a decent

record at this course, is thought

to be quite handy at home and

might be a bit too good for some

moderate-looking opponents.

Somayda, though sure to be

better for the race, looks the

4.15: YOUNG BIGWIG. who

goes in soft ground and

impressed last time, looks sure

to make a bold bid. Jeffrey

Anotherred, who also goes well

in the mud and is holding his

form well, looks a big danger.

4.45: BARREN LANDS. who

has shown a reasonable

amount of ability in recent

starts, can get off the mark.

Mamma's Boy looks like the one for forecast backers.

principal threat.

main danger.

the race.

PUNTERS' GUIDE

2.00: CONFIDANTE, a progressive sort who

impressed on both starts this term, can complete a hat-trick. Final Tango may be the main

2.30: ROBIN GOODFELLOW.

effective with cut in the ground

and probably well drawn in stall

two, should go well Iris May

1.00: DARK MOONDANCER

who might have a better turn of

foot than most of his rivals. is

the choice in what could be a

tactical affair. Mowbray looks

3.35; FLINT KNAPPER who

remains on a lenient handicap

mark despite his success

already this season, looks the

best option. Brandon Jack.

another who seems well treat-

ed at present could be the one

3.30: LOVE BLUES, from a

stable with a great record at this

course, is reported to be work-

ing quite well at home and

could prove too good for his

rivals, best of whom might be

4.00: MOTET, who had some

useful form last season, is fan-

cied to hold too much pace in the closing stages of what

seems sure to be a cat-and-

mouse affair for the out-and-

out stayer Top Cees.

to follow him home.

the most potent threat.

might pose most problems.

danger

722

Berry takes the toff track

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON at Ascot

FOR THOSE seeking an antidote to the stuffy elements of the Royal meeting the results fell perfectly yesterday.

Jack Berry, who used to sell live rabbits on Leeds market and take the family out to the Forton service station for egg and chips when a celebration was in order, won two races. His riding confederate was Carl Lowther, the 24-year-old son of a Blackburn motor mechanic and his hairdresser wife. "I thought we were having a good day when So Careful won the this is the ultimate." You could almost hear the baker's bicycle

clattering over the cobbles. The glory is unlikely to make a swollen-head of Lowther. He still makes evening stables at Berry's yard though he was spared the shovelling yesterday as he had to travel to Newmarket's evening meeting.

Lowther had to wait four years for his first ride for the guy nor and there was also a span of 16 months between his first and second winner. That was a poignant success as it came on the day that his grandmother, May, the person that pushed him into racing, died. Things have not stopped since then really," the jockey said.

A peculiarity of the Wokingham Stakes success of Selhurstpark Flyer (who was winning the race for the second

2.00 Confidente (nb) 2.30 Robin Goodfellow

3.00 Dark Moondancer

3.35 FLINT KNAPPER (nap)

15-W2 (TUE" 61 ES FAVOURITES: 134 wms in 425 races (292" 6). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Name

C POTE WENDA (21) (C) (6 H Voak) C Brotan & E

ান্ত্র WenDA (21) (C) (5 H Yoak) C Brotan 8 বি bage and light thise stress, black sieraes and cas জনত **FINAL TANGO (15) Mi**ts C A Waters I J Gestlen 8 9

2012 PRINCE (15) MITS CA Waters I Gosden 6.9 white print series white cap print zer 2 43:53 AKARITA (36) (Barouche Stud Lin) B McLaton 8.5 day take, yellow branes and amiles, quantied cap 3 -17-16 FIZZED (28) (Dute of Restaudie) M Johnston 8.7 sheer stadi cropper stadionare decrease.

ned, white seen my all blue cap n 221 ALOHA DANCER (28) IJ R Pamengi B H/s 8.7

Shier, dark green steezes

Shier, dark green steezes

Shier, dark green steezes

WR Shink

Manuscott, constant c

FORM GUIDE Equity Princess: Fine second to Dr Fong here in October. Won with ease at Hamt-ton 10 days ago and sure to go well despite the big weight. Ho Chi Min: Exposed dual soft-ground witner with stamms doubts. Dazilym Lady: Ran up to her best when 7th in a Group race at Chantily last time.

Has won in the soft.
Presthings: Soft ground winner on this card last year. Ground too fast last time Jimstyahrs: Still improving judged on second to Life Claire at Epsom last time. Wenda: Trip looks too short after her 3rd to Opera King over 12 turiongs. Final Tango: Up in timp after a fine second to the older Safta at Goodwood. Alcaritat: Well-bred maden down in timp after 3rd to Jabe at Newbury. Fizzed: Won Beverley handicap in April and trip (6) too sharp next time. Confidente: Progressive sort sure to improve again after the Sandown vin (7). Aloha Dancer: Open to improvement after a maden win at Warwick (7). Chim Chiminey: Mud winner and 3rd to Derby hero High-Rise at Ponteired. Diamond White: Disappoining since winning a fisted race last August.

VERDICT: Equity Princess is sure to go well after showing herself in form with an easy win at Hamilton. But she taces a problem against the better handcapped CON-FIDANTE and Final Tango, who look ready to improve again for this step up in the same Confidente with her handicap in style and looks well in off a 6lb higher rating.

consecutive year) and Boishoi's King's Stand Stakes was the polarisation in manner of victory. The former is as tractable as a missile from a launchpad; he just lights up and goes. Bolshoì, on the other hand, takes some time to warm up, but goes swiftly from tepid to white hot.

Berry inadvertently left blinkers off the gelding yesterday but that made no difference to his performance. Bolshoi stumbled out of the stalls and was soon five lengths behind the swarm. "I just have to let him be and wait for him to find his own stride," Lowther said. "It can be a bit difficult when Ayr Gold Cup," Jack said. "But you see he's 10 lengths behind and there is only two and a half furlongs left. He does frighten you early on."

The King Edward VII Stakes was another cigar moment at the meeting for Henry Cecil. His Royal Anthem conquered Kilimanjaro just after the turn into the straight, the most controversial section of the race. Kilimanjaro was one of the slices of bread here. colliding with the filling Fruits Of Love, who in turn bounced off Courteous.

The official adjudication was that this squabble was caused by Michael Kinane, Kilimanjaro's partner, which looked a harsh conclusion, particularly to the jockey himself "They've had their eyes shut all week and now they jump on me," he said.

The Irishman's four-day suspension for careless riding means he misses a race he has

. . . L Dettori & 115

. M Roberts 8 112 g

ASCOT

HYPERION

GOING: Soft. STALLS: Straight course- stands side; round course - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best on straight course.

Bit hight-hand course with resting uphill finish.

Course is near junction of A222 and A300 Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 6) Helicopter-landing facility at course (Heathnow Sin). Railway station (service from London. Waterloo) adjoins course ADMISSION: Mambers Ct5 (17-25 year-olds half-price): Grandstand & Raddook E10; Saver Ring LS CAR PARK: Nos 1 2 & 3 E4, rest free

BLEADING TRAINERS: J Dunlop 27 winners from 45 numers (success rate B8%). Saved bin Surrow 25 in C65%. Sir M Stouts 20 in 70 (148%). Gooden 9-18 (165%).

BIT LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori 42 winners from 254 ndes (175%). M J Kinane 27-177

153 (1) J Reid 27-233 (16%). Pat Eddery 24-234 (103%). R Hills 18-128 (141%). M Hills 18-128 (161%).

2.00 LONDON CLUBS FERN HILL RATED H'CAP (CLASS A) £20,000 added 3YO 1m (straight)

2025 BOUTY PRINCESS (10) (D) Manteum A Mainten M James 37 D Holland 7 702 mail blue, whole chemon, light time cap white sar
2015 HOH CHI MIN (28) (D F Alponi M Zeli 9 4 ... A Reld 1 107

HOH CHI MIN (28) (0.7 Alpont to Ball 9.1 ... J Reid 1.107 red, black orienters, white places, beat armied, white cap red, black orienters, white places, beat armied, white cap 1.107 orange, precided precision, black or specially in the check size was and cap resistance (20) (0.0) (0.0) (2.0) Participation of Children (2.0) (0.0)

4.10 Raffaello 4.40 Sakha

5.10 Nanton Point



Royal Anthem and Kieren Fallon win yesterday's King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot

Robert Hallam

never won and covets most, the Irish Derby. Royal Anthem will not be at the Curragh either. "He will have a rest and then we will think about the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Ring Dencer: Early leader at New he has a big weight and a poor draw.

Ring Dencer: Early leader at New he has a big weight and a poor draw.

Ring Dencer: Early leader at New has a big weight and the ground may suit.

Night Shott Exposed gelding who takes stiff task from a bad draw.

Robin Goodfellow: Has won in soil and has pood draw, but him may be too sharp.

Supreme Angel: Stiff task last time, but well-drawn today and goes in the mad.

Lord Lieutenant: Juvenile winner on fast ground and tooks up against it here.

Jay Gee: Behind Jimmy Too at Haydock last time and seems held.

Gippy Modit: From an in-form stable but doesn't appear good enough.

Torrent: Fast-ground win from Night Shot at Thinsk and Stiff on soit at York last week.

Arian Da: Highly tried and behind his May at Winclsor there runs ago.

Compradore: Newbury winner last term and can improve with stable back in form.

High Carry: Orly moderate winning form and well beatable in this gradle.

Pips Song: Improved last time when fourth to Magor Rainbow at Ninkt (Night Shot thad),

Iris May: Won only a modest race at Windsor but was clear of worys Joy, Arian Da

and Emperor Naheem: Badby drawn and well held by Iris May.

Ivony's Joy: Twice namowly beaten over 61 recently but this is sougher race.

VERDICT: Windsor winner links May has to be on the short-list from a laxourable for draw, but there could be better to come from COMPRADORE, who was a live-nile winner at Newbury and a Mujtahid filly who can surprise plenty of these with her

3.00 MILCARS STAKES (CLASS B) £15,000 added BBC1 3YO 1m 4f Penalty Value £9,147

Mowbray: Fourth in the Italian Derby, but both Juvenile wins on fast ground. Secret Archive: Has beaten Kehtan and Tavener Society, but is byting softer ground. Dark Moundancer: Winner in the mud and wants this longer trip after a fine third to Derby third Border Arrow at Newmarket (thir 14). Kahtan: First time on easy ground and second to Secret Archive at Kempton last month. Red Ramonia: Takes a straip rise in class after the Folkestone with over this trip. Tavenner Society: Sound form against Or Fong and Chester House this season and gets a 3th pull for a narrow juvenile defeat by Sacret Archive.

VERDICT: Soft ground and a step up in trip look made for Datik Moondancer, who is highly regarded SECRET ARCHIVE is the confirmed stayer after winning from Katten, and Taverner Society is eithe worth a call with its form being boosted by Fong and Chester House, Frankle Dettori takes a rare note for the Amistrong stable.

3.35 LADBROKE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £34,000 BBC1 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £21,950

1 2/30-6 WINTER ROMANCE (FS) (CD) (Abstroum A Melsoum) E Dunlop 5/10 0... K Fellon 12/108
1 2/30-6 WINTER ROMANCE (FS) (CD) (Abstroum A Melsoum) E Dunlop 5/10 0... K Fellon 12/108
2 6-43/5 PRINCE OF DEMAL (14) (D) (1/5 Guiten) D Arbuthrol 4/9 (0) Whitworth 16/100
yellow, royal blue strope, striped steems, yellow 200, royal blue spots
3 35-14 YABRIT EL SULTAN (28) (D) (G S D Imports Ltd) 6 Molletion 4/9 7... R Contrare 11/1/0

clety, 8-1 Red Ramona 1997: Falak 9 5 R Hills 7-2 (W Hern) drawn (3) 5 mm

Stakes," Cecil said. "Because banned, for two days, for his he is so big [at 17.1 hands] I whip use on Germano in the could not train him seriously as a two-year-old. I think he could be even better next year and a tage of a lacklustre display very good horse one day."

Michael Roberts was also from Swain. Paul Cole's horse seemed to be poking his tongue

15 050-17 ASSURED GAMBLE (46) (BF) (Edity Granesed Lin C Sitzen 465 _____ L Dettori 10 110 back and red (pastaned, not and chink larved sienes, white 72 _____ R Moden (5) 5 _____ and fact since, horsed sheeks quarter cap _____ R Moden (5) 5 _____ for each sheek quarter cap _____ 16 declared - _____ Minimum weight 15 10th fine handcap weight Seath (60 for 15 _____ R Moden (7) BETTING: 5-1 Fine Knapper, 6-1 Moveleg, 7-1 Though Leader, 10-3 Brandon Jack, Pricos Of Denial, 11-1 Another Time. 12-1 Knearre, Docklands Lino, 14-1 Yahlari El Suttan, 16-1 others 1957: Weiger Admanda 4 9 9 14 MRS 3-2 tax 16 Durkey Crash (1) 5 for.

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Winter Romance: Mudover who won this lest year. Fougher today under 10st
Prince Of Deniel: York where lest month and acts on the ground 1m, at probably
too far for her at Epsom last time.
Yabind El Sultane Attempts to dely the handcepper. A Listed race not has taken her
mark to a stone higher compared to Newbory in April.
Williams: No show in this race 12 months ago and lases a recent ording.
Vagabond Chamteuse: A badly handcapped filly with little change.
Kewarra: Soft-ground Epsom winner and same temps that Prince Of Denial conductions.
Tough Leader: On the upgrade but the outside citax could set hor a task.
Cardigan Bay: Won for John Oxx test season. Likely manner after that prince of
an Newborn.
Conspicuous: Short head second last years had a so to the second last years.

at Newbury.

Conspicuous: Short head second last year but now 5% worse with White Pointance.

First Knapper: Progressive cost who has won in the soft. Obvious interne effective at the own at Nemporn (good to first).

Brandon Jack: Takes in a stronger race start was at Winternout has much be Docklands Limb: Two-length that last year and may area, box a fine-hour out may move box at the box as fine-hour out. over the same train.

Another Time: Well acids of Kewaria at Ebsons shough the better off cides.

Assured Gambles Won once to furlooms in the side at Ebsons on the side at Ebsons of the side at Ebso

VERDICT: A cracking handszp with the propessive that Film Knapper and Bran-

don Jack holding every chance. The we're harden may bee Winter Homance, but Prince Of Dental is not out of it back over his best top MOWELGA is the man fattly after his Zetland Gold Cup second to Shadoot, who work again at Soson with Another er Time, Conspicuous and Kewarra among his victors 4.10 DE BOER TRIUMVIRATE CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS C) £13,000 added 3YO 1m (round) Penalty Value £8.078

Hels — 6 declared — BETTING: 11-4 Tequals, 7-2 The Sandilly, 4-1 Raffsello, 5-1 Rachaels North, Deki, 5-1 Sulfama, 1997; Pight Word 2.5 if i Sprake 6-1 Wi Rinero, drawn (c. 3 for

FORM YERDICT A trappy race with all numers holding a chance. A storr pade would comprise matters further RAFFAELLO is turned out quickly after furning seek in the Britishma and is just preferred to The Sandfly who looked a filly of potential on her deput.

4.40 FENWOLF NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) 28.000 added 2YO fillies 6f Penalty Value 25,654 51 SINDAE GRIL (17) (D) IC Whoth P Code 93 Par Eddary A
CAMSTRANO GAV (A Spectrum / Gospin 8 ft ... L Detox 7
CREME CARAMEL (Ars C A Waters) F Chaptle-Hyern 9 ft ... J Reid 6
2 EVENING PROMISE (15) (Ars C P Lees-Lores) B Malarton 8 ft ... D Hearteon 2
LADY GEORGIA (29) A J Rechard C Strain 8 ft ... A J Kriman 5
442 LIMEN LADY (10) (S Posel) J Jerkins 8 ft ... R Cochrane 5
2 MORNING MISSC (19) (Advanced Subal) R Harmon 5 ft ... Dane O'Neill 10
0 PESSANTE (24) (Als M & Savel D Servint 8 ft ... A Follard (7) 3
SAKHA (Handen 44 Maldoum) J Ourtop 8 ft ... R 1485 9
3 SPIRIT WILLING (14) (BF) (E J Lode) D Loder 8 ft ... K Fallon 1

- 10 decares BETTING: 3-1 Spirit Willing, 4-1 Saldra, 5-1 Morning Music, 13-2 Sundae Girl, 7-1 Evening Promise, Lady Georgia, 8-1 Capistrano Day, Creme Caramal, 33-1 others
1997: Fresting 9-3 T Quart 3-1 lav (P Cole) drawn (2) 11 ran

FORM VERDICT The betting will be interesting here with newcomers from three powerful stables taking on some with promising form, but the percentage call is to go with expenence MORNING MUSIC looked a certain future winner at Lencester, will appreciate today's extra furlong, and gets the vote ahead of Lady Georgia and Spirit Willing.

5.10 CHURCHILL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 2m 45yds Penalty Value £5,940

FUHM VERDICT

An open handicap with much depending on how ST ENODOC performs; he remains unexposed and can confirm the good impression he created last time at Not-tingham. Nanton Point and Rear Window have sold claims and can give the selection most to do. FORM VERDICT

out as he passed the nobles in Jinsiyah a filly on Hardwicke Stakes. This went to the grandstand. Jack and Carl Posidonas, who took advan- did much the same thing later. an upward flight

Simon Holt of Channel 4 Racing analyses today's Fern Hill Handicap at Ascot



Equity Princess: Suited by soft — to Jibe at Newbury. Still a maidand trounced useful Connoisseur Bay at Hamilton last time.

Hoh Chi Min: Up in trip after hampered, well-beaten fifth to Eastern Purple at Haydock (6f). Dazilyn Lady: Found wanting shen sixth of 10 in a Group Three at Chantilly, Now back in more suitable company.

Ffestiniog: Struggling to recapture form of three wins as a two-year-old - victories that the handicapper has not forgotten. Jinsiyah: Has less on her plate than when chasing home Lilli Claire in Listed event at Epsom on Oaks day. Earlier won at Newmarket and performed well in Listed company at Kempton. Wenda: Second to Daunting Lady in the Newbury mud first time out but beat only one home in the 1.000 Guineas and was possibly a non-stayer when third of four over 1m 3f at Lingfield. Final Tango: Tremendous run on reappearance at Goodwood, being caught close home by

Safio in all-aged company. Bound to improve further. Akarita: Needs drop in class judged on well beaten fifth in

Cheshire Oaks and third of five

en. Drops back in distance.

Fizzed: Never going the pace over six furlongs behind Eastern Purple at Haydock last time and seemed more comfortable when edging out Julies Jewel by a neck over seven at Beverley (soft). Confidante: Followed up her reappearance Thirsk win by beating more experienced ri-

vals at Sandown. Should do even better now stepped up to a mile. Aioha Dancer: Struggled to justify odds-on favouritism by a neck from Summer Deal at Warwick last time thaving earlier been caught close home at Newmarket and Chester). May get caught again over this stiff mile. Chim Chiminey: Soft-ground winner last season who, in hindsight, had an impossible task at Pontefract (1m 2f) in April when third to the subsequent Derby winner High-Rise. Off since out interesting now back to a mile. Diamond White: Beaten out of sight when fourth to Royal Anthem at Newmarket last time.

Conclusion: JINSIYAH, a consistent and improving filly, takes the eye here, while there should he plenty to come from Final Tango and Confidante.

10-YEAR-TA	LE C	M.	THE	FE	4 NS	ł) LL	HA.	NDI	CAP	
	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	87
Fate of the lavourites:	_ 1_	.1	7	6	4	4	5_	1/2/3	4	_7/
Winner's place in betth	ng: 1	1	3	0	3	0	0_	1C	2	1.
Starting-prices:	11-10	3-1	4-1	9-1	15-2	8-1	12-1	5-1	9-2	5-
Winners' weights:	92	84	6.0	813	82	86	B.13	9n	93	94
Profit or loss to £1 stal	ve: Fav	ourlt	es +9	110	Seco	nd Fa	vouri	les -C	725	_
Percentage of winners	placed	154,	2nd	Dr 310	I In te	st rac	æ: 70	₹		_
Shortest-priced winner	Storm	Kitty	y (198	3) 11-1	0					
Longest-priced winner.	Palana	(199	4) 12-	1						
Top trainer: L Cumani -	Storm	Kitty	y (1986	3), Bra	ve Кл	s (199	m) -			
Top jockey: L Detton -	Palane	(199	4), Ças	sk (196	35), Br	ave K	ns (19	97)		

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ns May	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	Jingiyeh	7-1	0.2	6-1	
ling Dencer	5-7	81	9-1	15-2	8-1	Equity Princess	8-1	9-1	7-1	
ips Song	10-1	9-1	8 -7	9.1	9.1	Alpha Dancer	10-1	10-1	71-7	1
L Goodinbon	9-1	9-1	10-7	_	70-1	Dazilyon Lady	12-1	12-1	11-1	1
lipsy Moth	12-1	12-1	12-1		10-1	Fizzed	12-1	10-1	14-1	_
ord Deuteros	i 11-1	p-1	12-1-		11-1	Fleatining	16-1	15-1	16-1	_1
Franky The	12-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	Wenda	41	14-1	16-1	
rary's Jay	14-1	16-1		16-1		Chin Chinkney	14-1	14-1	18-1	_
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Conspicuous 2-1 2-1 2-1 2-1 2-1

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NEWTON ABBOT

2.45 Alzaro 3.20 Stormhill Stag 3.50 Jimmy's Cross 4.20 Palace Parade 4.50 Shrewd John 5.20 Laser Light Lady

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). Left-hend, sherp, course with short run-in Tourse is N of town on A380 Station I'm, ADMISSION: Tel-II Salis (10; Course 25, CAR PARK: On rails 2150, rest free. LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 87 winners from 312 runners (success rate 279%), R Frost 24-202 (11.9%), R Buckler 10-70 (14.3%), G Balding 9-43 (20.9%). LEADING JOCKEYS: J Frost 23 winners from 170 ndes (840-295 (dle 135%), B Powell 16-162 (99%), M A Fitzgerald 11-76 (145%), C Liewellyn 7-58 (10.3%).

FAYOURITES: 260 wins in 595 taces (43,7%). BLINKEHED FIRST TIME: Express Again (220), Flowing Fortune (525). 2.45 COLESY'S LAST HURDLE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) \$3,750 4YO 2m 1f

BETTING: 6-4 Alzaro, 9-4 Ellemine, 11-4 Venetian Scene, 12-1 Gajan, 16-1 ALZARO was the best of these on the Ret, started he hurding career in highly promising style at Ultimater and should

policy, royal blue strope, planes, yellow cap. royal blue spots.

2.30 PALAN HANDICAP (CLASS B) £20,000 added [EEC]

3 YO 5f Penalty Value £14,330

1 £0.02 JMMY TOO £8) (D) (J D Genham) B McMeton 9 7 ... R Cochrane 14 110

2 2.30 ROBIN GOODER (21) (Mrs Incla Mitchel) P Mehn 8 0 ... D Holland 7 117

royal blue, yellow channor, veltow shares, royal blue debods, yellow cap.

3 4530 MERT SHOT (7) (D) (J C Smith) Badding 8 9 ... Marsin Dwyer 15 101

rope for the chemical policy for the chemical policy for the chemical policy for the chemical policy for the planes, blue royal blue steems on the planes, blue royal blue steems on the planes, blue royal blue steems on the planes, shared policy for the chemical policy for the chemical policy for the planes, shared policy for the planes of the planes, shared policy for the planes of the planes 3.20 MARLBOROUGH HOTEL MAIDEN HUR-DLE (CLASS D) \$3,750 added 2m 6f 1 MFP CHANGEM (S) J.M.Ins 7 to 0 Pidde 27th ST 10 GPPP DANTES RUBECON (22) N. Ayfits 7 to 0 R Greens 0 DE AMAINS GOLD (22) R Surpeon 7 to 0 Mr. J. Owen (7) 4 0003-0 DTOTO (14) R Bakes 6 to 0 V. Sattlery B 5 009-0 JOLSON (80) C Barwell 7 to 0 Pidde 10 L Gallegine 5 0 OPP JOLSON (80) C Barwell 7 to 0 Pidde 10 L Gallegine 5 1 0 L Gallegine 5 1 10 Like Chi 8 100-1 STEP IN LINE (38) R Float 6 to 0 J. Like Chi 9 100-1 STORM/BLI STAG (40) P Sowen 5 to 0 W Marston 10 DELIPSE OF THE SUN (35) P Sowen 5 to 0 J. Cultady 10 SAP5- HAYDON HELL (30) S Cole 7 10 9 G. G. Supple (5) 100-1 KINSTORIO ROSE (35) (87) M Ppo 5 10 9 G. G. Maude 12 declarate — 10 R 100 R 100

- 12 declared -BETTRAG: 11-4 Kinsterd Rose, 7-2 Stormhill Stag, 6-1 Sir Galakerce, Step In Line, 8-1 Eclipse Of The Sun, 12-1 Chica Gere, Dioto, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT A match between STORMHILL STAG and Kinstord Rose and, while it goes against the grain to oppose a Pipe horse here, preterance is for the former. There would not have been much between the pair on bumper form but Stormhill Stag may be better suited to the ground and trip.

3.50 SOUTH WEST RACING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5f 110yds BETTING: 7-4 Jimmy's Cross, 2-1 The Rying Doctor, 7-1 Winter Breszs. 10-1 Droman Chal, 12-1 Restriction Arms, 14-1 ff Bendbino, 16-1 West Ben

FORM VERDICT JUMBAY'S CROSS can follow up his recent win over C&D by getting the better of The Flying Dioctor again, even though he has to concede 6to this time. Winter Breitze is on the old side to be making his Rules debut but Robert Alher does exceptionally well with former point-to-pointers and he cannot be discounted on ground he will love.

4.20 WINNING POST RESTAURANT SELL-ING H'CAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m 6f 5 00634 MISS SOUTER (250) (C) (D) H Hous 9 10 1 ... G Shankin (S) 16 310Pg - SPIRAL FLYER (F14) (D) M Usher 5 10 0 J R Kavenagh

Mannum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Major Twist 9st 8tb, Khazen BETTRIG: 6-1 Va Utu. 7-1 Racing Hawk, 8-1 its Grand, 10-1 Dockland: FORM VERDICT Saling handicaps are virtually impossible at the best of times and this one is no different. Having field that ROAD TO AU

4.50 MID SUMMER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds - 8 declared -

- a gectared Mineman weight flost flue herdisco weights: Besulan Set (Ib., Helman ian set (Ib.
BETTING: 3-1 Evening Rain, 7-2 Weytones's Way, 4-1 Keltelucan, 11-2 Mr.
Been, 8-1 Beenfan, 10-1 Coasting, Shrewd John, 14-1 Helhem Tern FORM VERDICT

KETCHICAN looks on the upgrate and can confirm recent course form with Mr Bean, Wayterens Way has been a book-ies pal and, although well handscapped, is one to be wary of 5.25 FRENCH CONNECTION NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £2,900 2m 1f 2 (601-4 LASER LIGHT LAUT w. 1-7.

- 12 declared
BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

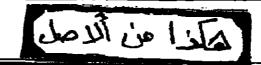
BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, Laszim

BETTING: 4-1 Hazzari, 11-2 Laser Light Lady, 7-1 Indian Nector, 11-1 Indian Nector, 11-

FORM VERDICT

FURBLY VEHILLER Lady looks well handcapped on her run at Wordes-ter on Wednesday and should make a bold hid to make all the running. However HAZAAF has looked a horse to tollow in recent weeks and is a confident selection. BON has plenty in his favour and can be expected to run a big race. The Pipe-maned Va Utu is an obvious danger and Racing Hawk should go well.



Tango can have the final word

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

THERE ARE various dates in the calendar when you can make a charlie of yourself. On 1 April the mischievous do it for you, but personal and thoughtless input often takes place on 14 February, anniversaries or mothers' birthdays.

The Saturday card joined to the Royal Ascot meeting also has beautiful options. There will be chaps turning up at today's meeting dress suited and booted when that gear should really be back tumbling through the dry-cleaning machines at Moss Bros.

Today is not the Royal meeting any more. It is the Heath card and it is not anything you can brag about attending over tiffin for the rest of the year. The strange relation stapled on to

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Final Tango (Ascot 2.00) **NB: Taverner Society** (Ascot 3.00)

the end of the aristocratic meeting does not have the pomp of what has gone before. It does not possess the kudos to the winners' enclosure. and it certainly does not have the same calibre of horse.

There are four handicaps for consumption and the conditions races are for beasts not fit to run before The Queen. This, however, does not make the selection of winners any easier.

Volume though is available today, and if armchair punters don't make it at Ascot there are another seven televised contests spread between Redcar and Ayr and eight more at

Lingfield and Southwell on Sky. If a single thrust is needed the best opportunity seems to lie at the very beginning of the broadcast fest. John Gosden is the notorious Rip Van Winkle of the Flat season, whose first alarm call seems to come only



John Gosden: opportunity

in time for the Royal meeting. He has already struck twice this week and FINAL TANGO (nap 2.00) appears well capable of adding to the sequence.

The filly could have been tuning up for this at Goodwood last time, but even the most strident conspiracy theorist cannot have imagined the manner of her defeat. Frankie Dettori's mount looked sure to succeed until the driver dropped his whip and had to resort to slapping his vehicle down the neck. When palms crash today it is likely to be as the Italian returns

If the form we have recently witnessed is to mean anything then Taverner Society (next best 3.00), who was not far behind Chester House at Doncaster last time, should also play a part. Jimmy Too (2.30) will like the ground, as should Cardigan Bay (3.35).

British raiders Prolix and Almutawakel, ridden by Pat Eddery and Frankie Dettori, take on five locals in tomorrow's Grand Prix de Paris at Longchamp, Croco Rouge (Sylvain Guillot), the French Derby runner-up, Daymarti (Gerald Mosse), Limpid (Olivier Peslier), Angel Heart (Alain Junk) and Special Quest (Olivier Doleuze) complete the field for the 10-furlong Group One contest.

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION

8.30 Hever Fever 9.00 Super Strides 9.30 Avanti Blue

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.
Course is N of town on A449. Wolver-hampton station 1m. ADMISSION: Club \$15: Tattersalls £6 (OAP members of Diemond Club £1); Viewing Restaurant £3590 including entrance and meal. £4R PARK; free. £1EADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead

70 winners from 648 runners (success rate 108%), J Berry 49-326 (15%), P Hastern 40-219 (16.3%), P Evans 36-378

LEADING JOCKEYS: S Senders 44 winners from 352 rides (success rate 10.8%12.5%), G Duffield 33-202 (16.3%). F Lynch 28-278 (10.1%), T Willia 241 (10%). FAVOURITES: 424 wins in 1,309 races

(32.4%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Wyan-dotte Inn (700), Sapon Victory (830), Miss

7.00 HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 6f

3 0-1053 PHARACH'S JOY (8) (7) 597 - N (2800 (7) 4 10259) (5) 13 4 1025943 YOUNG IBMR (5) 398 _ J F Egen 10 5 030645 THE WYANDOTTE BMI (7) (CD) 494

-83035 GARLESEA (17) (C) 490 ---00-602 PRESS AHEAD (\$9.3.9 tb.), Newton 2

0-000) TALYLLYN (22) 4 8 10 S Righton (7) 8 B 12 0-1000 KID ORY (44) (D) 78 SA Nichola (7) 7 13 400500 SYUSAN DANCER (23) 4 7 10 F Notion 8

- 13 declared -Markman weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Sylven Dancer 7st 8b BETTING: 5-1 Press Ahead, 11-2 Young Ibor, 13-2 Intisash, Phersoh's Joy, 7-1 Desert In-vader, The Wyandotte Inn, 8-1 Rude Areak-

FORM YERDICT A fletcely competitive opener, intimesh as well handicapped at the moment and should make a bold and to dely top weight. DESERT INVADER halls from an in form

yerd and can hopefully get his head in front for the second time in eight days, Gable-sea can go well at a working man's price.

7.30 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added im 100yds

S SONOST & S 6 83864 HEAD GAPLETON (11) (C) 683 _____ 7 000020 YOUNG BENSON (11) (C) 683 _____ B MOOFBIALL LAD (123) 691. ... M Tebbuil B

9 14034 SANNAROV (22) (C) 991 C Louder 5 10 503001 OMER THE MOON (14) (C) 48 18 TO SUB-LANGING 2 11 20010 HEATHWARDS SHEK (14) (2) 389

2 40-500 LADY EL (29) (0) 384 ____ | Stact 7 BETTING: 7-2 Bongs, 9-2 Heathyands Shotk, 6-1 Over The Mone, 7-1 Selsharov, 8-1 Bape.

and, Other Club, 10-1 Tui, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT BONGO and Headingards Sholk are the two to concentrate on at these weights. There's not much to choose between them, but prefence a for the former, gyers Heathyar

8.00 HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 100yds 1 21532 CHINA CASTLE (22) (CD) § 10 0

4 010-06 NOMERATOR LAD (17) (D) 491

6 840104 CHEERFUL GROOM (14) (CD) 77 10 Bresshill 5 - 6 declared -BETTING: 9-4 First Consul, 11-4 China Cas-

FORM VERDICT FORM VEHING:
An intensing heat depict for numers. Sustained and Cheerful Grosen both go well here, and over this sort of the, while yield have a fire producing its Ling-field form. The selection, though has to be FIRST CONSUL (map), who showed provides a described makens and won well enough over this track less time.

8.30 MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO

im 1f 79vds 420 EL CHAZEE (21)97 - PR 420 EL GAMAZEE (218 7 - 7 HOUSENDE 255204 HEVER FEMER (259 8 11 - 8 Sanders 635- SYMCRAK MYSTERY (250) (367 8 11 2 Sandk 1

4 005 ROSE JACUES 89 87 C McLaughin 10
5 0-05 PRIMATICCO (14 95 5 L0 Defined 8
6 34-506, THE BAPOSTER (15) 8.5 C London 4
7 00-500 DARING NEWS (12) 8.3 A MicCordin (3) 8
8 0-0030 BASIC STYLE (40) 7.8 A MicCordin (3) 5
9 10-650 SAXONI WICTORY (6) 7.5 I. Figure 9 8
9 0-660 JOMAROU (12) 7.0 J M Codmir (7) 8
11 45-4643 AWEDHAM STAR (110) 7.0 .

2 45900 International Processing States of the American A

FORM VERDICT PUTING VETAMOLI (New Year) of the straining to facts on to have that might give any ancount grants. During News has fallen so much in the weights that he cannot be ruled out. The most obvious reaction to such a widespread lack of ability, however, is to sole with PREMETICCO with control band of control toward for the co swell bred, comes from a notably strend shable, has a few plausible strates for his trate runs so far and is now making his handicap debut off the mark of a pla

9.00 SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 2YO 6f

1 25 HABER 11,50 SEP 8 11 P Fessey 4
2 0005 JUST ORANGE (8) 8 11 JF Fessey 4
3 0 HAVERI (22) 8 8 Services 2
4 6 HIJENNY (12) 8 8 G DeSign 5
5 00 MISS TATE (40) 8 6
6 4002 SUPER STRIDES (15) 8 6 C London 3
6 declared o -6 declared -SETTING: 6-4 Super Strides, 9-4 Habibi, 13-2 Miss Take, 7-1 Hi-Jarany, 10-fothers

FORM VERDICT FOHM VEXIDIC!
Hebbit has at least win a race, but there is no suggestion that she is any batter than this grade. Super Strides is the most likely serner of this, but if it. [ARM/synbous a bit of promes on her debut and might improve

9.30 HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

1 20504 BURNING (150) 6 10 1 ___F Lynch 2 2 184503 EVEZIO RUFO (2) (CD) 6 99 T (3 McLaughilly 3 B 3 -6512 LAW DANCER (14) (C) (67) 588 ---4 6045/1 NESSUN DORO (JET) (D) 699 _____ 5 - 0240 PREMERIDANCE \$39 (CD) 11 99 _____

6 -SO02 AVANTI BLUE (22) (D) 4 8 12 — FERM 9 V 7 (2004) MACHAL (25) 5 8 9 — C LONDON 1 8 3005 SHARGAN LE (16) 5 8 7 SENDING 6 (16) 5 8 6 — G (Mard 10) 5 6 6 (16) 5 8 6 — G (Mard 10) 5 6 6 (16) 5 8 6 — G (Mard 10) 5 8 6 — G (Ma

17 440003 WELCONE LU (3) 57 SL. F Norton 5 11 63500 PALACEGATE 30 (3) (CD) 77 SL. A McCarthy (5) 8 A McCartly (5) 8

- 11 deciared

- 11 deciared

BETTING: 7-2 Nessum Doro, 9-2 Lew Dancer,
7-1 Evenio Rario, Shanghal 18, 6-1 Berning,
Petacepate Jo, 10-1 Walcome Lt., 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT FORMS TEMPLE!

A couple that could upset the sand reguless are BURNING and Measure Done. Both
tase to improve somewhat on their efforts
less time.

REDCAR

HYPERION

2.10 Crash Call Lady 2.40 Cartmel Park 3.15 Czar Wars 3.45 Rangatira 4.15 Young Bigwig 4.45 Barren Lands 5.20 Smart Spirit GOING: Good to Soft in places with Heavy patches. STALLS: Im - stands side: 5(, 6), 71 - low numbers on rail

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to tm. Left-hand, tight course, with a one mile straight. Course is off A1085 (signposted from A66). Redear station (Darlington - Seltburn Intel 300yd. ADMISSION: Club 112; Pad-dock 18 (OAPs 1350); Course 1250 (OAPs 1125). CAR PARK:

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 32 winners from 284 runners (success rain 113%), J Goaden 19-59 (32.2%), M Johnston 19-131 (122%). J Duntop 15-52 (283%). III LEADING JOCKEYS: G Center 17 winners from 76 notes (su cess rate 22.4%), L Charmock 13-177 (73%), G Duffield 9-51

ion 7-72 (97%). FAVOURITES: 211 wins in 584 races (361%). BLINKERED FIRST TRAE: Lelcaster Tiger (210), Little Henry (210), Half A Knicker (315), Bright Desert (445)

2.10 'BOTTLE AND A HALF' SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added

		2YO 7f
1	300	LEICESTER TIGER (22) T Ethernation 8 11
2	0	LITTLE HENRY (43) P Evens 8 T F Egen 2
3	33033	THE DONK (15) B Rothwell 8 11
4		CANNYLASS (4) N Trider 8 6
5		CRASH CALL LADY (7) C Alen 8 5
6		DISHABILLE (19) J Betrel 8 6 G Dutliek
7		EMMA'S SURSET (32) N Tinider 8 6
a		EMAREG (21) J Parker & S M Tubbut
9		FIZZY WHIZZY (19) C Booth 86 L Chemod
10		LISALA W G M Turner 8 6 A Micholia (7)
		40.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.4.

- 10 tiectared -BETTING: 3-1 The Donk, 4-1 Crash Call Lady, 5-1 Comyless, 8-1 En-abeg, 10-1 Little Henry, Essma's Susset, Lisele, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT Very little to enthuse over free, with CRASH CALL LADY representing tair recent form and leads on regressing newcomer, having been so on the long journey from Dorset. Stakes should be kept to a manuscript.

2.40 KM GROUP SERVICES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,400 added 2YO 5f

= 1 venera = -SETTING: 4-7 Carimal Park, 9-4 Rajmata, 14-1 Foreign Editor, 20-1 aret, 25-1 Fourth Time Lucky, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT Cartreel Park sets the standard for the rest to metch, but RAJMA-TA may well be up to the job. She half from a very lest tamily and can be relied on to know her job, given the good form of the Prescott

3.15 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 7f

032- ELJJANAH (336) (BF) J Duniop 97..... G Carter 2 83

white, light blue and yellow stoped sleeves, queriered cap -8 declared -Miramum weight: 7st 10th. True hambleap weight: Just Nobby 7st 2b. BETTING: 5-4 Elljameh, 7-2 Czar Wars, 9-2 Borricke; 8-1 Durham Flyot 12-1 Aberkeen, Half A Knicker, 20-1 King Of Dance, 33-1 Just Nobby

FORM VERDICT

Most of these are hard to fancy, and much depends on how ELLIANAH shapes up after a long absence. He isn't one to go overhoard about, but his stable's record here is excellent and he gets the vota to beat some unin3.45 TEES COMPONENTS C4 25,000 added 1m CATHEDRAL BELLE (8) Lits M Reveloy 492 L Charnock &

RANAUD J (SISSION 3 8 TH. G HIND 9 - White, emeraled green hoop

RANGATIRA M Johnston 3 8 TH. J Famoing 1 - yellow, black chrenots, halved cleaves, not cap

ROVERTITO Mas M Reveloy 3 8 TH. S Copp (5) 3 - yellow, large and aposts, other blue sleeness, yellow cap, and aposts

55- SOMAYDA (1985) J Duning 3 8 TH. S Copp (5) G Carter 4 85

3350-3 MOVING PRINCESS (35) Miss S Hall 3 8 6 A McGlore 7 91 mercot, bege amiets, bege cap

— 9 declared —
BETTING: 11-4 Someych, 7-2 Rathertd, 4-1 Moving Princese, 5-1 Ran-gelira, 8-1 Mundo Raro, Roveretto, 16-1 Cathedral Belle, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT Moving Princessip is sure to win a race this season, while Reinald and Raingatha are bred to be useful and hall from parts with plenty of good yearbasists at this level. The market is likely to prove a good guida, but SOBIAYDA has the form in the book to win a cace of this

regions good can pay back a modest stice of the ir 550/000gms he cost

4.15 VAUX GOLD TANKARD HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 61

20-006 ZUHAIR (28) (D) D McCan 5 9 10 ... pusple, white cheenin hoop, emists and cap 3 32001- SARIT EXPRESS (225) (C) (D) Mis M Reveloy 897 . S Copp (5) 390 South Series purpose purpose purpose property of the series of the

bege, black speulists, orange cap 5 -000th BOWLERS BOY (5) (D) J J Quinn 5 8 12 (6e4) G Dudlield 7 85 yellow, empeti green chemors, emeeting green stenes, yellow emales, airped cap 6 225620 BEE HEALTH BOY (7) (0) M W Exsterby 5 8 4. G Paston 2 B 103 tege, yellow diamond on body
7 000023 JEFFREY ANOTHEFFED (S) (SF) M Dock 461 JF Egan 8 87

7 000023 JEHMET AMULTIMENT DE LA COP park, bleck hoop, black cop 8 1-000 JANDOLE BAST (28) (CD) TO Bannon 5.7 ft L Chromodik 6.8 94 1-000 JANDOLE BAST (28) (CD) TO Bannon 5.7 ft L Chromodik 6.8 94 ement (self (sul) FO Baron 57 ft L Chemock 6 B 94 ements green and pink diamonds, pink aboves, pink cap, ements green diamond — 8 declared — 8 ETTING: 7-2 Saint Express, 9-2 Zuheir, 5-1 Bowlers Boy, Jeffrey Anotherned, 6-1 Young Bigwig, 7-1 Ansabraen, 10-1 Bee Heelth Boy, Middia East

FORM VERDICT Jeffrey Anotherned is finding it hand to recapture his best form and YOUNG BIGNING is preferred, though Zuhair would be interesting if the ground dried out quarkly

4.45 ROMFORD CATERERS C4 STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 6f

BETTING: 11-8 Memera's Boy, 15-8 Rich Cholos, 7-2 Berren Lands, 8-1 Quiz Mestns, 20-1 Teke Notice, 33-1 Bright Desert FORM VERDICT

BARREN LANDS (mp) has been found a good opportunity to get off the mark. A strong, powerful type, he showed he acts on dead ground at Catterick two outings ago and, given that he looks capable of a little more improvement, he gets the vote over blankmark Boy and black. The land. 'HAND TO ROUF' LADY AMATEUR

5.20 RIDERS MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m

FORM VERDICT A trappy finals with doubts about several of the field. Tilinal has the best recent form, but he exit an easy horse to win with and DANC-ING EM is nominated as a better value option.

LINGFIELD

6.40 Admirals Secret 7.10 Lament 7.40 Barranak 8.10 The Magistrate 8.40 Roger Ross 9.10 Bank On Him

GOING: Turi course: Good to Soft (Soft in places); Equitrack

GOVING: Tith Course. GOOD to Soft job The passey, Expandent.

STALLS: Turt straight course - stands side; fm1f - inside, fm3f putside, Equitrack course - outside.

DRAW ADMANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 140yd.

Turf & Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of town on 82028. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club 213, Family Enclosure 2td. CAR PARK: Club 23; remainder free.

ILEADING TRAINERS: GL Moore & winners from 842 (success rate 33%), Misse G Kalleway 38-232 (164%),

ILEADING JOCKEYS: J Quinn 35 winners from 655 numers (success rate 53%), W Ryan 33-201 (164%), Dans O'Neill 26-314 (83%), K Fallon 25-92 (25%).

FAVOURITIES: 738 wins 2243 races (33.3%).

FAVOURITES: 738 wins 2,213 races (38.3%). RED FIRST TIME: Maders Lucy (6.40), Barranak (7.40, ert Spe (8.40), Jaza (8.40), Ballykiss

6.40 BUDGET CARPETS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added

16 SODDOD DURSSICN DURSSIC (15) N LETTICES 9 3 3 3 4 0 Casast (7) 15 - 15 declared
Minimum weight: Set 3b. True handloop weights: Breazed Weit Set 0b., Proud Brigarder 3st 8b. Durston Durgson 3st 6b.

BETTING: 9-1 Beites Gest Boy, 7-2 Adminsto Secret, 7-1 Tello, 8-1 Latindl, Gilde Path, 12-1 Durham, Machan Loop, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

A moderate affair in which few can be given a realistic chance. TAL-IB's recent cleaning race form is difficult to assess but the time was talt, and its senior an att lowerante boths sound. He could have most to test from Ballias Gate Boy, who evidently goes wall here.

7.10 LARKINS BREWERY SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 SKY added 2YO 6f

ACCURATE W Mur 6 11 Martis Dayer 9
4303 GREYYEE (5) Ma L Sacha 8 11 K Fallon 5
0082 CASHIG (26) B Priling 8 6 DONE AND DUSTED (29) (SP) J Berry 8 6 P Bradley (7) 3
003 LAMENT (9) (STED (29) (SP) J Berry 8 6 N Polland (7) 8
003 MY MOTHER'S DREAM (15) M A Buckley 8 6 W Ryan 8
003 MY MOTHER'S DREAM (15) M A Buckley 8 6 L Quirin 2
0 SUNSET FOREST (80) M Chernon 8 6 R Pecham 1
0 TERESHKOVA'S JOY (14) K Wingrow 8 6 Declam O'Shea 7 -9 declared -BETTING: 11-4 Done And Dustric, 7-2 Lement, 4-1 Cashild, 5-1 Grayese, 13-2 Sunset Forest, 14-1 My Mother's Uream, 16-1 Apolineire, 20-1 offices

FORM VERDICT Just an ordinary saller in which it will be advisable to freed a market move for any of the newcomes. On form, the choice reast between Cestici, Done And Destedy and Lement with preference being for the Jack Berry-trained dropped-in-class DOME AND DUSTED.

7.40 JOHN KOCH HANDICAP SKY

Minimum weight: 7st 10h. True hendigen weights: Michight Cookie 7st 2b. Distant Dynesty Rei Gib. BETTING: 9-2 Berrymak, 7-1 Malibu Mari, Matural Key, Hell Tone, 8-1 Hyde Park, Mikotaca, 18-1 Mijas, Friandiy Brave, 12-1 othera

FORM VERDICT A high draw is usually an advantage here and a can pay to concen-trate on English Lady. Half Tone and Bantanak. With the last-resmed, should be set up for HALF TONE, who is given the chance to make amends for a sub-standard display last week. He is nicely in with Eng-

8.10 SLUSH PUPPIE CLASSIFIED SKY added 3YO 7f

D-0005 ACID TEST (7) (C) (D) W Muir 8 11 554-05 THE MAGISTRATE (26) M Blanshard 8 11 Custon 1 - 10 declared -10 0-0640 TAJBEL (14) D Morris 88.....

BETTHIG: 3-1 Empirical, 7-2 Da Boss, 4-1 Imperial Princa, 7-1 Acid Test, 8-1 The Magistrate, Morgan La Fay, 14-1 Dare, Magic Powers, 25-1

A weekish race in which EMPTRICAL (nap) - better than the bare resuit indicates on her responsance - is arguably the form puck as well as the least exposed. She can overcome a possibly disadvanta group draw, with The Magistrate, one of her main mais, even worse

8.40 MER CAR POLISH HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 1f

1321 MELLORS (23) M Heaton-Elis 597 A Daly (3) 14 44-03 SCHNOZZLE (12) K Bodgweiter 7 9 4.... K Fellon 12 521000 ARDENT (23) C Bertsead 4 9 3 J Lowe 6 48-306 DESERT SPA (19) P Harris 3 9 3._____ J Quinn 10 B 0-4003 MENDOZA (23) P Michel 4 9 1..... 10 04-362 HAWKSBILL HENRY (15) Mrs A Parrett 4 9 0 R Hughes 9 14 000-0 JAZA (J42) N Graham 488 J Tale 11 B

BETTING: 4-1 Roger Ross, 5-1 Mallors, 5-1 With A Will, Havehabill Henry, 7-1 Schnozzie, Mendoze, 8-1 Desert Sps., 12-1 others FORM VERDICT it can pay to acte with the much-improved ROGER ROSS, who bettied on abusity to get the better of enotines relatively unexposed type in Piped Abroad - the pair clear - at Sandown less Saturday. He should

harn less contain to cope with the step up in trip. 9.10 LEO CAPLAN LAST CHANCE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added

not be troubled by this sightly longer arip and, despite a 5th nee, could still be a step ahead of the handcapper. Mellors' forcing factics make

3YO 1m (AW) 222-53 RED RABBIT (14) (BF) B Has B7..... 500 PARK ROYAL (24) P Butter 8 TiS Drowne 9 CS-006 BALLYXISSANIN (22) D Firench Davis 8 9 D Suseanly 5 B 6-3243 BANK ON HIM (15) G L Moore 88 J Cuine 10 400-05 ARGUMENTATIVE (5) S Dow 9 2

- 11 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True hendicep weight: Semmy's Shuffle 7st 0th. BETTING: 2-1 Red Rebbil, 7-2 Bank On Him, 6-1 Special Person, 8-1 Ballytjasenn, 10-1 Argumentalitre, 12-1 Coemarion Boy, Dover Scut, 18-1

Several of these have had their chances, but SPECIAL PERSON has shown some ability on this surface and is more interesting in a handcap for the first time.

AYR

HYPERION 2.20 Angie Baby 2.55 Safio 3.30 Love Blues 4.00 Motet 4.30 Perfect Peach 5.00

Riccarton GOING: Good Good to Farm at places! STALLS: Round course - outside; stanget course - tar side DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best St & 61 I Left-hand galicong course; nm⋅n 210yde.

■ Course is E of town on A758. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) 9n. ADMISSION: Club £14; Grandstand £7 (DAPs half-

gow) In Advances Nove Cash Sta; Grandstand 17 (CAP's nair-price), CAR PARIX: Free

LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 23 winners from 161 runners (success rate 14.3%). B Hitta 18-55 (32.7%), Mrs M Reveley 13-81 (16%) A Bailey 13-86 (151%) III LEADING JOCKEYS: K Daviey 27 womers from 157 rides (success rate 172%). J Wester 28-152 (171%), J Fortune 15-123 (122%), J Carrolli 5-143 (121%)

FAVOURITES: 143 was in 431 races (33.2%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Silvering (2.55) and Days of

2.20 DAWN CONSTRUCTION 25TH ANNIVERSARY NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO

FORM VERDICT ANGLE BARY put up a particularly good effort when wiming on fast ground at Noonghart and het traner beleves she has more improvement to make. She is worth support but First Mexical is in good heart.

2.55 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £8,000 added 7f

050032 SMOKEY FROM CAPLAN (14) (D) JJ ONeil 487 J Carroll 7

- 7 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Tests West, 4-1 Setto, 5-1 Severing, Rec From Caplant, 6-1 Royal Work, Seltirit Rosa FORM VERDICT

A case could be made for all the runners in what could furn out a faise-ly-run race. Tests Well is now back on a possetiaty good mark, while Sthereing must score before bag but the admatable SAFIO qualerted up in great style to win at Goodhood and could easily dely his nee in 3.30 GOLF EVENTS E.B.F. C4

26,000 added 2YO 7f DIAMOND LAD (17) W Kemp 90 _____Paul Eddary 1 80

-7 declared -BETTING: 2-1 High Regard, 3-1 Gold Rush, Rum Pointer, 4-1 Love Bluss, 12-1 SBert Sound, 14-1 Pridevey, 16-1 Dismond Led

FORM VERDICT Not much to go on here and it is possible GOLD RUSH will improve considerably on his Windsor debut. High Regard comes from a stable whose neuconers are always worth great respect, while Prideway gives the impression she will relish this trip. 4.00 TENNENT CALEDONIAN C4 BREWERIES TROPHY

RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 1m 7f 2-302 TOP CEES (8) (C) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 8 10 0 ... I Fortune 2 97

emerald green, rtysii blue sleeres, white cap, emerald green spots 10-00 MOTET (26) G Wragg 4.9 13 Paul Eddary 1 9 black and white (fighed), siecus; reversed, red cap 50-104 FORGIE (14) P Calver 5 9 1 N. Day 3 102 dark blue, white sash and armers, red cap

1343 GO WITH THE WIND (22) J Gode 57 10 J Michaely (7) 4 103

white, royal blue epeulets, alsoves and cap - 4 declared --Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True handicup weight: Go With The Wind Tst 7th. RETTRIC: 11-10 Top Case, 3-1 Motet, Forgio, 5-1 Go With The Wind

FORM VERDICT Cup, is weighted to wer but the small field and faster ground are not ideal for him and he may be worth taking on with MOTET, who looks ready to strike form. Forgile needs to improve again but cannot be dis-

4.30 DAWN CONSTRUCTION CLASSIC HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 5f

45-25 GRAND ESTATE (B) (BF) T Easterby 3.97 K Darley 3.91 black and red (quartered), black alceves, rad cap 215-4 PERFECT PEACH (35) (D) O Crapman 3 9 4 A Culture 1 81 iki green, white sash, emerald green sleeves, white stars, hooped cap 10 TALAVERA (26) (D) J Berry 3 9 3 J Carroll 6 89 with dismand this and whith diabab on sleeves, blue cap, and digraphic

dark blue, white chevran, disbolo on sleaves 5 363-05 DAYS OF GRACE (18) (D) M Messie 3 8 8 Door McKeown 4 80 dank blue, yellow disc. dank blue sleeves, yellow spots, yellow cap 6 D-0022 JACKERIN (5) (D) B Restrivet 3.65 ... R Winston (5) 2.894 purple, yellow stax, yellow aleaves, purple armiets, curple cap, yellow star

40-004 EASTERN LYRIC (7) (0) J Berry 3 8 11... . J Fortune 5 83

- 6 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Grand Estate, 7-2 Perfect Peach, Eastern Lyric, Jacker

4-1 Talevers, 10-1 Days Of Grace FORM VERDICT GRAND ESTATE, who ran well from a poor draw against his elders at York after a cracking reappearance effort at Newcastie, looks poten-

tally better class than these rivals and can dely his 500 rise in the handicap. Jack Berry may provide the biggest threat with either Talewarn or Eastern Lyric, although Period, Peach is not out of the reckning

5.00 DOONFOOT HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 2f 192yds

2 530524 SEGALA (3) (BP) JJ ONell 7 9 12 J Carroll 1 3 OSS-13 SUPERFRIDE (19) (C) Mrs M Revoley 6 9 10. A Culhane 10 5-6601 VANADRUM ORE (17) W McKeown 596 J Wester 4 5/405- PHILMEST (204) (CD) Mess L Perratt 6 9 3 ... N Kennedy 7 B 06-0 ZIBAK (72) J Goldin 4 9 3 K Darley 13 0-3044 KEEP BATTLING (25) (CD) J Goldie 8 8 12 T Wellams 8 30-000 SPANISH VERDICT (19) D Smith 11 8 9 C Teegue (3) 15 0-4034 SING AND DANCE (15) E Weymes 5 8 7 R Winston (5) 6 10 00000- THALEROS (215) J Warnwright 8 8 6...... Deen Mickeyen 1 11 000050 GRAND HOTEL (5) R McKeller 4 7 12 ... _ K Sked (5) 12 B 12 COD-DG SCHOTLEY MARTE (23) N Bycroft 37 Tr.... S Maloney 9 13 -06805 BEAU VIENNA (10) A Diction 3.7 10 J McAuley (7) 2 14 400346 SHUTTLECOCK (36) D Chapman 7 7 10 lone Wands (5) 5 15 60-000 DESIRE'S GOLD (23) M Brittan 3 7 10..... D Mernegh (7) 14

– 15 declared – Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicep weights: Shuttlecock 7st 7th, De sire's Gold 7st 2lb.

BETTIMG: 7-2 Seperpride, 4-1 Riccarton, 5-1 Vanadium Ore, 11-2 Sing And Dance, 13-2 Segala, 8-1 Kaep Battling, 10-1 Philmist, 14-1 others

over the enigmetic Superprists and may have more to fear from Chester

winner Vanadium Ore, who is capable of a decent turn of tool when

he gets the run of the race.

FORM VERDICT RICCARTON (nep) has now won three of his last six starts and looks well worth following. He is capable of confirming Hamilton superiority

SOUTHWELL

6.20 Persian Butterfly 6.50 Some Day Soon 7.20 Sharp Command 7.50 Non Vintage 8.20 Rinus Major 8.50 Eastern Project 9.20 Grimaldi Lad

GOING: .Good (Good to Soft in places). Course is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark. Rollestor Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tattersails £6 (OAP mambers of courses Demond Club SA accompanied under-

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 9 winners from 38 runners (success ratie 23.7%). K Morgan 6-23 (26.1%). P Bowen 5-16 (3.13%), W G M Turner 4-13 (30.8%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Johnson 12 winners from 48 rides (auccess rate 25%). A S Smith 7-38 (18.4%), M A Pitzgerald 5-34 (14.7%). R Supple 5-41 (12.2%).
FAVOURITES: 156 wins in 414 races (37.7%).
BLINKERED PIRST TIME: Rafter-J (6.20), Dawn Led (6.50), Eland (8.20).

6.20 100 YEARS OF RACING AT SOUTH-WELL RACECOURSE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

FORM VERDICT INFLUENCE PEDLER was a deserved writer at Market Rasen last Saturday, has ecope for further largroupment and is taken to follow up Elipticas could give him most to do. 6.50 RACING CHANNEL HAN-DICAP CHASE (CLASS F)

- 16 declared
- 16 declared
Minimum veight: 10st. Your harmicap veights: Bitcrack Sst 12b, Snowdown
Lify Set 11b, Willie Wannaho Set 9th, Sape Player 9th 11b, Willie Wannaho Set 9th, Sape Player 9th 11b, Showdown
Lify Set 11b, Vidle Wannaho Set 9th, Sanore-don Lify, 10-1 Nove Charup, Some Day Soon, Grate Deal, Cheater, Stage

FORM VERDICT

SOUTHERNCROSSPATCH (map) had its field well strung out when scoring at Vibrosser a forangit ago, is expected to stow even better form over this longer top and can dely a 9th nee in the weights. 7.20 BARDON AGGREGATES SKY

E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds 1) 30342- THERTY BELOW (26) (D) M Chapman 9 10 0... W Worthington

Minimum weight 10st True handloop weight Thinty Below 9st 12b. BETTRIC: 4-1 Royal Barge, 5-1 Filscot, 6-1 Storp Command, 7-prino, Pontavedra, 8-1 Jubne, Thirty Below, 10-1 others FORM VERDICT The horses to concentrate on are near the head of the handicap; Filacol and Royal Sarge book expetite of malong their mark in handcap com-pany soon but may struggle to cope with SHARP COMMAND who wind he tair share and at wall in on his best form over hardes. 7.50 SOUTHWELL RACECOURSE SKY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £15,000 added 2m

- 10 declared -htm:ruum weight: 10st. True hernicap weight: Hight Dance Set 10th. BETTING: 3-1 More Desh Thencesh, 4-1 Kinnescenh, 5-1 Indian Jr ey, 7-1 Chebrol, Announcing, 8-1 Diego, Swing West, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT More Dash Thancash may have further improvement in him and should run another good race, but the concession of 28th to ANNOUNCING

may prove beyond him. He was highly tried on his first few outings over hurdles, and makes plenty of appeal here on his handicap debut of 8.20 CHESHIRES CONDITIONAL SKY

HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 14 declared -BETTBNG: 5-1 Filmus Major, 6-1 Reefa's MEL, 7-1 Bedouin Prince, 8-1 Not

Forgotten, Monticello, Select Star, 10-1 Greg's Profiles, Eland, Lady Pen FORM VERDICT A breachul contest with solid form thin on the ground, NOT FORGOT-TEN has managed to firsh third on all five starts to date which makes him of more interest than the majority of this field. He is unlikely to find an easier opportunity than this and can gen reward for his

8.50 1898-1998 SOUTHWELL RACECOURSE ANNIVERSARY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

ture, 20-1 others FORM VERDICT EASTERN PROJECT finally got his act together at Perth 15 days ago and can follow up. No Montague is sure to run another sound rece. but may once again have to settle for a minor plating.

9.20 SOUTHWELL RACECOURSES INTER-MEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H)

£1,500 added 2m 0 BACKSCRATCHER (7) 8 Gollings 4 to 13.......L Cummins (6) 2- GRANALDI LAD (37) M Hammond 4 10 G N Horrocks (5) UR COOL M Poe 4 10 13 J Huet (7)
O. NAME YOUR GAME (42) M Highton-Ellie 4 TO 13 R Massey (3)
400 VALE HOPPER (14) J Norton 4 10 13 _______ E Calleghan
ANDEKA LOUISE F Lackson 4 TO 8 _______ Mr N Kent

DETTING: 11-4 Mr Cool, 11-2 Grimatol Lud, 13-2 Chief Wardsnee, 7-1
Top Designer, Cleo Nicky, 8-1 Keep Rils, 19-1 Double Street, Chordy, 12-1

Faldo stung by failure with putter

BY ANDY FARRELL In San Francisco

ON US Open days of yesteryear like Thursday, when only nine players broke Olympic's severe par of 70, Nick Faldo was always among their number. Yet Faldo, a winner of three Opens and three Masters, started his second round only too aware that he was heading for his fourth missed cut in the last six together a round of golf. "My major championships.

An opening round of 77 left Faldo 11 strokes behind the leader, Payne Stewart. His only holes was for the second-round leader, or leaders, not to have got too far ahead and for him to stay within 10 shots. Being late for his tee time would not have

rived with only seconds to spare after a protracted session on the putting green with his coach, David Leadbetter.

Faldo, 40, has not won a tournament for 15 months but his dilemma is worse than forgetting how to win. For all the quality work he does on the practice range, it is almost as if he has forgotten how to put game is getting better," he said, "but my scoring isn't."

At the root of Faido's problems is a loss of confidence on hope of qualifying for the last 36 the greens and, looking like someone who has been trampled in the rush, he repeated a familiar theme: "I'm happy with everything but my putting.

COMPLETE FIRST-ROUND SCORES

86 P Stewart: 67 M Carnevale; 68 J Durant, T Lehman, JM Chazabal (Sp), B Teasy, 68 J Daly, Parnewk (Svee), J Maggert: 70 A Magee, C Montgomerie (GB), M O'Meara, "M Kuchar, T Kite, D Ognit; 71 C Duracco, C Rocca Itti, L Roberts, J Leonard, P Mickelson, I Sandelar, P-U Johansson (Swe), B Geiberger; 72 S Pate, P Lee, I Sturran, F Couples, L Westwood (GB), I Woosnam (GB), S Smpson, S Jones, S McCarnor, T Bjorn (Den), L Portre, E Romero (Arg.), DA Westrang; 73 O Browne, GDJ, S Appleby (Aus.), F Likitter, T Watson, P Harrington Itri), K Triplett, L Janzen, S Cink, R Gehr, N Price (Zim), J Huston, V Singh (Fij), J Nichlaus, B Faston, S Stricker, C Chernock, E Fryart (GB), J Acosta; 74 W Wood, C Perry, S Hoch, J Furyk, T Wfoods, S Verplank, M Calcavetcha, T Oh, R Goosen (SA), B Zabriski, D Gildrer, D Martin, D Pooley, D Clarke (GB), T Dodds (Nam), B Andrade, M Brisky, T Straub, J Johnson, C Marrian, M Wilson; 75

"I only missed two fairways Cook, P. Azinger, T. Sipula, F. Zoeller, B. Fabel, R. Deruntz, E. Els (SA), B. Langer (Ger), G. Marsh (Aus), T. Herron, B. Baird; 76 M. Lonardi (Arg), J. Green, P. Stankoviski, F. Nobilo (NZ), P. Moss, C. Tudland, K. Wentraorth, M. Smail, B. Chamblee, D. Mast, J. Allen, M. Reid, C. Paulin, I. Garrido (Sp.), "P. Simson, J. Haas, G. Marth, G. Fieger, "V. Lavloc; 77 G. Water (NZ), J. Gore, G. Boros, C. Strange, G. Hallberg, P. Taraurangi (NZ), J. Thorsen, R. Walchec, C. Kaufman, N. Faldo (GB), K. Sutherland, S. Ellungton (Aus), J. Estes, S. Bertsch, 78 D. Hart, M. Ozaki (Jap), D. Love, C. Beck, B. Wetterich, O. Urresu, G. Clough (GB), D. Kurkpatrick (GB), R. Karlsson (Swe), "D. Eger, 79 H. Smitty, W. Weston, T. Sutter, 80 R. Todd (Can), S. Randolph, H. Invin, G. Larson, A. Morin, K. Peyrelerny, 81 P. Jordan, B. Crenshave, M. Burke; 82 "R. Palmer, R. Rangel, J. McMillian; 83 "J. Kribel, G. Willis; 84. J. Johnston, T. Anderson, 88 A. Solitis; 84. J. Johnston, T. Anderson, 88 A. Solitis; 86 R. Todd. T. Rolles, D. Hart, "denotes amareur player, U.S. unless stared

been the way to start but he ar- - I'm so close it's ridiculous. My only weakness is my putting."

The most exasperating example came at the 17th. A converted par five, where most players think of a four and a birdie, it measures 468 yards uphill to a tiny green. Few players managed to hold the green in two but a drive and a one-iron put Faldo within 15 feet of the cup before he three-putted. "A total waste," Faldo acknowledged. "As Elton says, you've got to bite your lip and get up and dance.

But Faldo has never found it easy to dance to new tunes, unlike Jesper Parnevik. The Swede will try anything. "Actually, I've been quite normal recently," he said. "I haven't been overdosing on volcanic sand." When Parnevik goes to the driving range, he is just trying to find something I can play with for the day. I've been trying a low cut just to get the ball on the

Parnevik shot a 69 to lie one ahead of Colin Montgomerie but one behind the leading Euro-pean, Jose Maria Olazabal. The Spaniard, returned to the way he was driving the ball when he won the Dubai Classic in March, almost matched Mark Carnevale's feat of not dropping a shot until he bogeyed the 17th. A curling, downhill putt from nine feet for birdie at the



Nick Faldo struggles to come to terms with the Olympic course

last gave him a 68, his best-ever score in the US Open.

In nine previous championship appearances, Olazabal has finished in the top 10 three times and missed the cut three times. Much depends on how he is driving the ball, but the number of long iron shots required at Olympic plays into the magical hands of the Spaniard.

"Even though the US Open does not suit my game," he said. "I like the challenge. To overcome a situation like this is a

years ago, once declined to the first tee when they gave me use a buggy in an unofficial tournament

Instead. Martin has made history by becoming the first player to use a cart in a major championship and given the attention, and not least the fact that he has never played in a regular tour event before, his 74, finishing in near darkness, was an impressive performance.

"The support I got from the fans out there was overwhelming," Martin, a 26-yeargreat feeling." Olazabal, during old qualifier, said. "I have to his foot problems a couple of admit I was almost crying on

that ovation. It saddens me that I have to ride to play golf but at the same time I am grateful for it. I don't look at it

though I know I am." Carnevale, whose 67 put him second only to Stewart, trained as a stockbroker but quit after one day before embarking on a journeyman career on and off the tour. His card vesterday was somewhat different to the day before as he had two bogers and a double in a front-nine 39.

like I'm making history, al-

Andrew Redington/Allsport Durant, who leads the driving accuracy stats in his second

year on the US Tour, went to the turn in level par to remain two under, where he was joined by the US Amateur champion Matt Kuchar with birdies at the seventh and eighth. However, after an opening 80, it looked like Ken Peyre-

Ferry, a club pro who qualified for the US Open for the first time in 30 years of trying, would make it to the church on time for his son's wedding back in New Jersey on the East Coast this afternoon.

Granville on move to Leeds for £1.6m

posi iten low pfei

ddins b

his hes

FOOTBALL

CHELSEA WERE cast in the unfamiliar role of transfer market sellers yesterday when they accepted Leeds United's £1.6m offer for the left-back Danny Granville.

The 23-year-old signed by Ruud Gullit from Cambridge United near the end of the 1996-97 campaign, saw his senior appearances limited by last season's return of Graeme Le Saux

Newcastle, too, were in clear-out mode, shifting Jon Dahl Tomasson to Feyencord for £2.5m and completing the signing of the French striker Stéphane Guivarc'h for £3.5m. Newcastle, however, have pulled out of a £2m deal for the Sheffield United wing-back Wayne Quinn.

The Premiership's Gallic headcount was further bolstered by Arsenal signing the David Grondid, an 18-year-old defender, for £500,000 and agreed a unique partnership with his club, St Etienne, to exchange loan players and coaching methods.

Nottingham Forest were also conducting a cross-Channel raid, completing the signing of the 22-year-old striker Jean-Claude Darcheville from Rennes for a fee of around £700,000.

Everton's shareholders have forced an extraordinary meeting at which they plan to "shame and embarrass" the Goodison Park chairman, Peter Johnson. The move follows a reported effort by a Surrey-based company the Wiggins Group, to launch a takeover bid.

Ian Brightwell has joined Coventry from Manchester City:

New Zealand angered by exodus of talent

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT in Dunedin

WORLD RUGBY appears to possess more agendas than the average All Black has chest hairs. While Fran Cotton, Clive Woodward and other high-profile

the New Zealanders are bleating at the tops of their voices about the amount of homegrown talent following the yellow brick road to Europe. Zinzan Brooke and Frank

Bunce, two vintage All Blacks. have already taken up new residence at Harlequins and Castres respectively. That in itself is of lit-English figures continue to the concern to the New Zealand ports heading towards a lu-fuss has broken out over the

Zealand on a scouting mission. confessed this week that Harlequins were interested in the services of Angus Gardiner, an English-qualified open-side flanker of considerable repute. Needless to say, Brooke's initiative has reduced his countrymen to a state of apoplexy.

protest long and hard about the Rugby Football Union. who an- Cup holders from France, have damaging flood of foreign im- ticipated the moves. However, a stirred the pot further by claiming the signatures of Tabai crative place in next season's plans of three of the Super 12- Matson, the centre, and Kevin Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga ture from rugby orthodoxy may pulling a similar stunt during Allied Dunbar Premiership, winning Canterbury Crusaders. Nepia, the highly rated loose- - are being given short shrift. also have far-reaching impli- next year's showpiece.

Brooke, back in New head prop. The latter would be an unusually grievous loss to the All Black set-up. There may well be another

outburst of anger if Lee Stensness, the Auckland back who remains a prominent figure in the plans of the All Black hierarchy, decides to accept one of several French offers. Polite restripping bare the major rugby- English season. playing islands of the Pacific -

inated domestic Premiership: talents, Jonny Wilkinson and Josh Lewsey, get next to no op-

said, leaving no one in any

Meanwhile Clive Woodward cations. The New Zealanders the England coach, has reiter- were not impressed by his withated fears about a foreign-dom- holding of team details before today's match in Dunedin and "Our brightest two outside-half Rob Fisher: the NZRFU chairman, is asking the International Board to introduce portunities to play in their best legislation guaranteeing the positions in top-flight rugby." he naming of Test line-ups at least 48 hours before the kick-off. "It's Brive, the former Heineken minders that the NZRFU have doubt that the issue would con- not fair on the crowd. said son but, after this weekend, played an enthusiastic role in tinue to fester well into the new Fisher who insisted that World ; each side will have played its ri-Cup agreements would pre- vals once, so it is still a suitable Woodward's latest deparvent Woodward or anyone else time to be taking stock.

top form the Scots will need to

be equally strong in their first-

time tackling.

AUSTRALIA (* Scotland, today, Brisbane): M Burke: B Tune. D Herbert. T Horan. J Roll: S Lantham. G Gregon: R Harry. P Kearns. A Blades, T Bowman. J Eales (capt). M Cocaban. T Kefu, D Wilson. Replacements: C Whitaier. N Grey. J Lattle. W Otahengaue. O Finegan. D Crowley. J Paul.

new kicker

Eagles seek

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

point in the Super League sea-

The Sheffield Eagles try to literally kick-start their season at home to St Helens today. Their coach. John Kear, was holding auditions for a goalkicker after deciding to relieve Marcus Vassilakopoulos of the duties. Sheffield have struggled to land their goals since the loss of Mark Aston and Matt Crowther with long-term injuries and Martin Wood is like-

ly to be given a chance. Saints have doubts about the forwards Julian O'Neill and Paul Sculthorpe, but are likely to keep the half-back combination of Tommy Martyn and Sean Long, with Bobbie Gould-

J Little. W Otahengaue. O Finegan. D Crowley. J Paul. SCOTLAND: G Metcalle: D Lee, C Murray. R Shepherd: S Longstaff: G fownsend. B Redpath; D Hilton. K McKenuse, M Proudfoot. S Murray, S Grimes. R Walliaminght (capt). E Peters. G Simpson. Replacements: C loner. D Hodge, G Burns, A Rochurgh. S Campbell. G McIlwiham. S Brothestone ing on the bench. London and Castleford are two clubs for whom the halfterm report must read "could

their beaviest Super League de feat at Saints last week and Tony Currie will make changes, bringing back Luke Goodwin IT IS not quite the midway and Terry Matterson and giving the Saracens winger Kris Chesney a debut in place of th still absent Martin Offiah.

If a Wembley victory doused the fires at Sheffield, then two wins in the earlier rounds seemed to do the same to Castleford Their coach Stuart Raper, who signed a new contract this week, felt that some players were still living off victories over Leeds and Bradford

The League leaders, Wigan. give a start to Mick Cassidy against Warrington who will be without Jon Roper for two months with a broken leg.

Bradford, who have already lost twice as many matches as last season, add Brian McDermott and Sonny Nickle to their injury list at Salford. Matthew Elliott blooded one teenager last week in Stuart Fielden and may give a debut to the scrumhalf, Paul Deacon.

 Queensland beat New South Wales 19-4 in the deciding State of Origin match yesterday.

Australia remain wary of Scots in rapid rematch

JIM TELFER, the Scotland termined mood for today's second Test against Australia in Brisbane,

Emphasising the importance of the match in assessing the overall success of the tour he said: "Ultimately we have to tralia coach, believes his side be judged on what we do in the internationals.

the tour has shown that we are a rughy nation willing to come mistakes. I honestly believe it to the southern hemisphere will be a tight Test. Our guys and to play the best Australia were found wanting under the has to offer."

BASEBALL

Assentcan LEAGUE; Texas 3 Oakland 2: New York Varinces 5 Develored 2; Karsas Cicy 5 Detroir 3: Boston 7 Empine Bay 5 /10 In-nings); Toronto 13 Baltimore 6; Monesoka 4 Chikago White Sas 1 (3 innings); Anaheim 11 Soutie 5.

Manchester Giants have hired the

former England international Dave Gardner as an assistant to new coach

BOWLS

WOOMEN'S HOOME INTERNACTIONAL CHAM-PROBESTER (Landplanded Wells): England be Walter 105-101, Empland First): Di Hankin less to B Morgan 14-20. W Line loss to A Dainten 14-19: M Sreale be R Jones 19-14: M Price loss to G Niles 16-38. J Newman lost to J Waston

to G Miles 16-39. J Newman lost to J Wason 12-18: N Shavi br C Morgan 24-B Sondland be breland 142-96 (Socioland Brail). H Rankin bt P Nolan 20-17: D Barr bt P Herrier 25-13: R Hurchison br P McDonagh 23-15: L Bren-nor br Pby 24-15: M Russel br M Johnston 34-13: I Bernett lost to M Barber 16-23.

FOOTBALL

PREMIERSHIP GAMES LIVE ON SRY UNITED THE EMB OF DECEMBER. August 18-50 uthampton v Liverpool August 23: Asten Wills v Northigham Forest. August 23: Asten Wills v Middle-Forugh. August 24: Leet's v Blackburn. August 30: Newastle v Liverpool. September 20: Asten Wildle-Forugh. September 13: Fortenham v Middle-Forugh. September 27: Asten Winterer United September 27: Election v Mintelection. September 27: Lections v Wintelection. September 27: Lections v Wintelection. September 28: Wastland v Southampton. October 4: Liverpool v Chelsea. October 18: Locks vi V Steffield Wednesday. October 18: Lections v Stefield Wednesday. Recently between 18: Lections v Stefield Wednesday. Nottingham Forest. Notember 29: Lection v Notember 18: Lections v Stefield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest. Notember 29: Lection v Notember 18: Lections v Stefield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest. December 6: Middle-Strugh v Notember 20: December 18: Mintelection v University of the Mintelection v Liverpool. December 16: Mantelection v Liverpool. December 16: Mantel

ham Forest, Depaister 13; Lends v Coventry,
December 14; Lends v Coventry,
December 16; Manchester United v Chelses,
December 20; Arsenal v Lends, December 25; Charlon v Aston VIII., December 25; Chelses v
Manchester United, (Sondey mothes like off our April Manches of Bipm)

at April Manday matthes at Bipm)

ISPERE Leigh Jenkinson (winger) St. John-to Wilson (free).

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Galaxy 2 Rapids

The Scots know that they will coach, said his team were in de-face a team high in confidence after their 76-0 win over England two weeks ago and the 45-3 victory against Scotland last Saturday. Despite that comfortable

win Rod Macqueen, the Auswill still be motivated. "The Scots gave us a very tough "But whatever the result game last week," he said. "Their pressure made us make extreme pressure.

GOLF

MADEIRA ISLAND OPEN (Santo da Serte Golf Cinb) Leading second round scores (GB or Iri unless stated): 139 D Tapping 67 3. 140 G Hutcheon 71 69: GJ Brand 71 69: Rask (Swe) 71 69. 141 C Ceveer (Fr) 70 71. 143 A Sherborne 74 69; G Emerson 72 71: G Nicklaus (US) 72 71. 144 C Hainfine (US) 72 72: J Rystrom (Swe) 74 70: D Higgins 73 71: 145 D Chopra (Swe) 73 72: J Hawksworth 73 72: M Molina (Arg) 72 73. 146 J Guepy (Fr) 70 76; S Geidsen (Den) 73 73: D Sika (Por) 71 75. 147 M Reale (IK) 72 75. 148 K Brink (Swe) 74 74. 149 (x) J Umbelino (Por) 72 77, 150 J Lara (Sp) 75 75: S Wakefield 76 74. 153 A Mickerna 82 71: D A Russell 76 77. 159 A Tillman 78 77. 157 R Derison (Neth) 79 78. 160 (a) A Oliveira (Por) 84 76.

(x denotes amoteur)

Durit.OP OPEN (Hikami, Japan) Leading scores (Japan unless staned): 70

Y Fudo, 71 C Nishlas, 72 K Man-soo (S Kor); K Woo-soon (S Korea): Huang Yuchen (Tahw); T Kimura: M Inoue. 73 K Aesook (S Korea): L O-soon (S Korea), 74

K Ok-hee (S Korea): M McGuine (NZ): Huang Yuch-chyn (Tahw); A Fukushima: Y Motoyama: M Matsuo: F Nagata; Y Shimar M Sai, aanini M Millochi M

HOCKEY

Barry Dancer, England's coach, has

announced a training squad from which he will select his teams for a Five Test series in South Africa next

month and the Commonwealth Games in September. He has recalled

Reading's Howard Hoskin and Man-preet Kochar, but left out Nick

Thompson and Calum Giles, who were both in the World Cup squad.

ENGLAND SOUAD: J Wyser, H Hoskin, 5 Maron, Marpreet Rochar, M Pearn (all Reading), B Crutchies, A Humphres, M Johnson, J Lewis, J Pidcock, B

Sharpe, Kaibir Takher (all Catnock). S Fordham (Hounslow), R Garda (Polo Barcelona), B Garrard, J Wallis (Ecd-dington), J Halls (HDM), D Hall (Gulld-ford), J Lae (Old Loughtonians), D Luckes, B Barnes, 5 Head (East Grin-

Milke O'Connor, the former Sheffield

Steelers defencemen, was appoint-

ed as general manager of Newcas-tie's Superleague club yesterday. The

club will soon be unveiling a new team name and logo, and a new coach is expected to be appointed within the next few days.

roto: H Sakagami; M Higuchi.

(x denotes amateur)

our passing and on the number of dropped balls. They know a lot more about

SPORTING DIGEST

us now and Scotland won't make the same mistakes." The tourists had a slight injury problem with their massive tight-head prop Matthew Proudfoot, who picked up a

minor ankle knock during training yesterday, but he has been declared fully fit along with London Scottish's Derrick Lee. Scotland know that if they are to get near Australia they must improve their attacking

MOTORCYCLING

Defending British Superbike champion Niall Mackenzie and Yamaha team-mate Steve Histor dominated the two free practice sessions for Sunday's ninth and 10th rounds of

the premier series at Donington Park. Hislop was the faster of the two. clocking a best lap of 1 min 10.252sec – 100.30mph around the

the advantage in the title chase.

RUGBY LEAGUE

THREE STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH (Sydney): Opening (12) 19 New South Wales (4) & (December) win the three-match series 2-1)

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: (Whangard, NZ): New Zealand Maoris (35) 66. Tongo (7) 7. (New Pigmouth, NZ): Semoa 22 Taranaki (NZ) 18.

SQUASK

Sabine Schone fought back from a

game down to beat Jenny Tranfield to prevent England from taking over the semi-finals of Germany's Mobi-

the semi-finals of Germany's Mobi-com Aachen Open Championships, MOBICOM AACHEN OPEN CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Aachen, Ger) Charter-final: 5 Wright (Brigh to Madrec (Eng.) 9-0 10-8 9-7: 5 Homer (Eng.) bt 1 Marth (Eng.) 9-6 9-4 9-4: 5 Schone (Ger) bt 1 Tranfield (Eng.) 8-10 9-6 9-3 9-0.

TENNIS

Richard Lewis, the former British No

2, has been promoted by the Lawn Tennis Association to director of ten-

nis for young British players. He will assume responsibility for develop-

ment and easing the transition from junior to senior levels.

DIRECT LINE WOMEN'S INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Rastbourge) Singles, gazete-finals: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt S

nerves may have been the reason for their poor back play in Sydney.

"Some of our players froze on the day - especially the new caps - but hopefully they will have learnt from the experience," he said. Scotland also will want to

change their tactics by opting for a more measured game instead of trying to play a passing game in impossible situations.

The expectation is that Gregor Townsend at stand-off

C Obenin (Fr) br L Herbert (GB) 6-16-2
ROSBIRALEN OPEN (Rosmaires, Nesh)
Hear's occopied rosmid: R Kraiccis (Nesh) be
5 Dosedel (Cz Rep) 7-6-6-7 6-3: P Rother (Auc)
br A Medveder (Unr) 7-6-4-6-7-6; K Kucera
(Soua) br K Carisen (Den) 6-2-6-2: S Schalken
(Neth) bt G Raous (Fr) 6-2-7-5, M Damm (Cz
Rep) bt J van Lottum (Neth) 6-6-4-0 van
Schepplingen (Neth) br P Wessels (Neth) 7-6
7-6, J Stemerink (Neth) br F Devalf (Be)
6-3-6-3: 7-6. Wanneur's quarreer-finalist M
Oremans (Neth) br & Boogen (Neth) 6-3-2
6-6-3: I Halurd-Decugs (Fr) bt S Appelmans
(Be) 6-7-7-6-6-3: S Estand (Fr) br G L Garcia (Sp) 7-6-6-4, k Po (US) bt C Ruten (US)
6-3-6-4.

"We will have to improve on play. Telfer suggested that and Rowen Shepherd at centre constant threats and the cenwill kick out of defence rather tre pairing of Tim Horan and than trying to run the ball from Daniel Herbert moving into within their own 22.

> The Scots also know that up front they must improve on the their line-out performance with a combination of more accurate throwing and better deployment of their ball-

winners. The best part of Scotland's game last week was their defence even though the Wallabies scored five tries.

With try scorers Ben Tune and Matt Burke posing

Referen: B Campsall (England)

ASCOT

2.30: (1m41 King Edward VII Slakes) 1. ROYAL ANTHEM __K Fallon 9-4 fav Also ren: 7-1 Courteous (6th), 15-2 Central Park (4th), 9-1 Denoing Phentom, 12-1 Castrio Ceptive, 12-1 Fruits of Love, 16-1 Multawwey (5th), 40-1 Pegnitz.

10 ran. 2.21:, 3,11, 21: [Wimer bay coll by Theatrical out of In Neon, trained by H Cecil at Newmarks for the Thoroughered Corporation). Tota: 53.70; 540, 550, 550, 550, 6540. DF: 64.70. CSF: £883. Trid: \$4680. After a stewards' inquiry, the placings re-mained unalitered.

3.05: (Imel Hardwicke Stakes)
1. POSIDONAS Pet Eddery 18-2
2. Germano Foberts 8-1 LiL Dettori 5-6 tav Also ram: 13-2 Stage Affair (4th), 15-2 The

7 ran. 1/2, 11/2, 6, 11/2, sht-hct. (Winner bay horse by Slip Anchor out of Terrassos, trained by P Cole at Whatcombe for Athos Christodoulou) Tote: \$8,00; £2.30, £3.80. DF: £38.30. CSF: £54.58.

3.45: (6) Wokingham Stakes Handicap)
1. SELHURSTPARK FLYER .. C Lowther

3. Superior Premium ...R Winston 40-1

29 ran. Hd, 1/4, rik, 1/4, (Wirner bay gelding by Northiam out of Wiedom To Know, by Jerry at Cookerham for Chris B Antonia Deulers). Tota: \$1600: \$330. \$470, \$1120, \$420. DF. \$38250. CSF: \$43109. Tricast: \$17,47,67. Trio: \$928250.

RACING RESULTS 1,20: (5f King's Stand Stakes)

Also ran: 4-1 fav Bolin Joanne, 5-1 Sainte Manne (5th), 12-1 Land of Dreams, 14-1 Bishops Court, 14-1 Camtine Lake, 16-1 Avent, 16-7 Piper, 20-1 Cathedral (4th), 20-1 Coastal Burl, 20-1 Easycal (6th), 20-1 Hever Golf Rose, 20-1 Lidanna, 20-1 Mid-night Escape, 33-1 Techurrow, 33-1 Tipsy

Creek, 33-1 va Masik. 19 ran. 11/s, 11/s, nk. (Wirmer brown gelding by Royal Academy out of Mainly Dry, trained by J Berry at Cockerham for Ms David Brown!, Take 21100; 5230, 2230, £110. DF; £2800. CSF: £7803. Tho: £97600.

Also ran: 9-2 Principality (4th), 8-1 Anno Domini (5th), 8-1 Shining Desert, 10-1 Ta-taria (6th), 14-1 Bridgand Blue, 18-1 Dra-mabas, 16-1 Head Hondrin, 20-1 Chorel Express 33-1 Robber Red, 50-1 Sampower Star, 66-1 Formidable Star.

14 ran. 21/s, nk, sht-hd, 2, 1 (Winner chestnut IIIy by College Chapel out of Emerald Eagle, trained by T Easterby at Melton for Mrs. Martan Rogers). Tota: \$2.70; \$180, \$480, \$330. DF: \$2790. CSF: \$3482. Trio:

5.30: (2m6f Queen Alexandra Stakes) Also ran: 7-2 I neareword (ear), 4-1 Fur-ther Flight (4th), 8-1 Safety in Numbers, 11-1 Old Rouvel (5th), 25-1 Gezalari. 100-1 Billy Box, 100-1 On So Handy, 100-1 Sun Alert. 11 Iran. 11/4, 4, 11/4, 9, 1. (Womer bay fifty by University out of Whitsky, trained by A Kalle-month Recognition in Windset (Withfiller).

way at Newmarket for Michael C Whatley) Tota: £1190; £270, £160, £210, DF: £2840 CSF: 64628, Ino: 98170. Cap: pages, inc. secr.u. Jackpot: not won (pool of £231514.73 car-ried forward to Ascot today). Placepot: £3,142.00. Quadpot: £67.70. Place 6: £415080. Place 5: £2,58649.

2.20: 1, SECONDS AWAY (P Goods) 3-2 br; 2. Coscoroba 11-2; 3. Bertone 7-1 19 ran, 1%, hd. Li Golde, Kimamotat, Totar 520; 1:30, 1:50, 2:35, DF: 1990 CSF; 1:222 Trucast \$83,77, NR: Ryefield Star, No bid for the winner Tha: £25.70.

do better". London suffered

2.55: 1. DASHER AND STASHER (W Supple) 33-1; 2. Perigeux 7-1; 3. Highly Fancled 66-1.7 ran. 5-6 fav Laabed (4th). Nic. (J. O'Nell, Permil). Tote: £2160; £5.90. £3.60. DF: £89.50. CSF: £21782. 3.30: 1. STORYTELLER (Date Gibson) 2-1 lar; 2. Indian Sperk 9-1; 3. Mousehole 5-1. 8 red. 1½, nk. (M Dods, Darlington), Rote: E240; E10; E310; E170; DF: E2800. CSF: E1395 Tilcast: E4347; Tilc: E5320, NR: Swyrifard Dream, No 8 Swynfard Dream (9-2) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bats, deduction 15p in the

L. A.DS: 1. RIVER BEAT (A Nicholis) 100-30; 2. Nunithi 9-1; 3. Cosmic Case 10-1.6 ran. 10-11 fav Tightrope (5th), 5, 2%. (M Tomp-lans, Newmarket), Tote: 5410; £150, £3,30. DF: £1170. CSF: £2808. 4-40: 1. CAPTAIN LOGAN (M Herry) 4-5 tar, 2. Be Precisel 10-1; 3. Magic of Alohs 3-1. 6 ran. 14, 31, (D Loder, Normanier). Tote: £160: £10, £3-20, DF: £840, CSP: £695

5.15: 1. ALDWYCH ARROW (M Fenton) 6-5 fav. 2. Mannequin 100-30; 3. Swen-dale Plyer 20-1, 7 ran. 1%, 1 (M Bel. Nowmarketi. Tote: \$200; \$120, \$200, DF: \$220, CSF: \$371, Tricast: \$2806, NR: Last

pot 53900. Quadpot: £3,40. Place & £131.28. Place 5: £85.80.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of litres of bilge cleaner used during the 16.300 miles so far covered by Cable & Wireless Adventurer on its way towards a record breaking

round-the-world voyage. The crew have also got through 11 scouring pads, 92 toilet rolls and eaten 590 digestive biscuits.

Record target in Hoya race

SAILING BY STUART ALEXANDER

RECORDS WILL be top of the

wish list today when one of world yachting's biggest participation events, the Hoya Round the Island Race, sees just short of 1,400 yachts and about 10,000 people sailing the 55 mile circumnavigation of the Isle of Wight.

While the early birds will be departing class by class from 7.0 am, the sponsored grand prix yachts, which do not leave the start line for another three hours, will be hoping to set the fastest time. In the multihull division Hoya has entered a 60ft catamaran, to be skippered by Eddie Warden Owen, with the target three hours, 55 minutes and 28 seconds set in 1986 by Mike Whipp and Rodney Pat-

tisson in the trimaran Paragon. The monohulls present a nice contrast. Mike Golding's state-of-the-art Open 60 Group 4, tuning up for Atlantic and round the world single-handed races, takes on Lawrie Smith in the Whitbread 60 Silk Cut. Smith has Formula One driver

Damon Hill on board. The monohulls will be chasing the time of five hours, 12 minutes and three seconds set in 1996 by the 84ft Hoya Longobarda.

.Positive Stewart slow to defend

By DAVID LLEWELLYN at Lord's

THIS TEST is in danger of turning into a long hard road to nowhere as far as England are concerned. It is certainly proving a testing match for Alec Stewart. After having won the toss and having had the South Africans by the throat at 46 for 4 on the first day things took on

a different complexion yesterday. He may have claimed his 100th Test victim as a wicketkeeper, no mean accomplishment, but it is likely that he would have traded that personal landmark for a lower South African total

The tourists' innings was beginning to stretch out ahead of them, its end lost in a shimmering vision of high South African scores and low English morale. It was a situation that would have tested the leadership qualities of a far more experienced Test captain than

Whether he has come through with flying colours is a moot point. There is no denying the good aspects to his captaincy. He was frequently

way to give them encouragement at the end of an over. He has also been happy to consult with Nasser Hussain, the Essex captain and the possessor of an astute cricketing brain.

But there was little sign early yesterday of everything going England's way as it had on the first day. Too often, as Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes applied a winch to their troubled innings and pulled it well clear of the mire, there was the thought that perhaps the England captain was sticking too blindly to his positive philosophy and setting attacking fields, instead of making them work harder for their runs through a defensive

As the morning wore on the South African pair grew in confidence. The highest South African fifth-wicket stand at Lord's - a mark that had stood at 94 since 1951 - was swiftly followed soon after.

Stewart did at least try to break the batsmen's concentration with frequent changes of bowling. Just as pundits seen running up to bowlers started to wonder whether between deliveries to impart a Angus Fraser had been oversuggestion and going out of his cooked Cork was switched to



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overtaken, their century stand Jonty Rhodes dives to make his ground during his innings of 117 for South Africa in the second Test against England at Lord's yesterday

Pavilion End and Dean Headley was introduced to the attack while Fraser had a blow. Cork's second spell lasted only four overs before the off-spin of

from the Nursery End to the Robert Croft came into the

Unfortunately the juggling appeared not to disorientate either batsman as their joint venture took them into new waters

for any South African fifth-wicket pairing against England anywhere. Tony Pithey and Johnny Waite's 157, set at Johannesburg

in the 1964-65 tour by England,

Stewart finally woke up to what was needed and shut down the run flow after lunch, and somewhere around the seventh of more than a dozen changes of bowling came the

End induced a loose shot from

breakthrough Mark Ealham, just 16 runs away from a operating from the Pavilion double-century partnership. In the end they did not quite get away, but Stewart cannot be sat-It was a critical moment, isfied with a performance that since the South Africans were let the South Africans back in.

Giddins back Leatherdale rampant on seamers' day to his best

By JOHN COLLIS at Hove

AFTER assembling 489 runs over the first two days, Warwickshire intended to throw the bat yesterday morning. It mause Jason Lewry bowled Ashley Giles five minutes and one run into the day, and Brian

B declare immediately.
The visitors had already built an invulnerable castle of runs and they desperately need a win, after losing to Nottinghamshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire in succession.

In his Sussex days, Ed Giddins liked to take the ball first change and was often a work-But he is now a quicker bowler, an England prospect, and, of course, Lara gave him the fresh cherry and the slope.

They insist, incidentally, that the drugs tests conducted on the cricket circuit are random. but the return of Giddins to attack and when he was eighth Nove was marked by the clatter of specimen bottles, and all

22 players were required to give their all.

Giddins went to work with enthusiasm. In his third over he captured the wicket of Wasim Khan - who made the opposite journey from Edgbaston to lunch he took the two too prizes, Chris Adams and Michael Bevan. The Australian Lara decided to revert to Plan clearly felt that his pads had a wooden sound to them, but he was lbw nonetheless.

Surprisingly, after Thursday's success for the Sussex spinners, it was the other visiting seam bowlers, Dougle Brown and Graeme Welch, who continued the inroads into the home side's response, though both Neil Smith and Giles were horse running up the Hove hill. swiftly called into action to probe a blameless wicket.

In the 50th over of their innings, Sussex were in complete disarray, six wickets down and 215 runs away from saving the follow-on. Only Toby Peirce stood firm against a determined man out it hardly seemed worth taking his pads off.

D C Boon low b Hutchis

J Wood c Blakey b Stemp

Total (AA overs) -

YORKSHERE -- Sec

u p Vaughan not out.....

C Philips 5.4-0-14-1; J Wood 3-1-14-0.

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

Usephres: G | Burgess and T E Jesty

LEICHSTERSHIRE - Phys. lookigs

P V Simmons c Powell b Thomas...

Leicestershire won toss

A Habib & Parkin

By MIKE CAREY at Worcester

Gloucestershire 188 Worcestershire 111-8

ALTHOUGH THE best part of two days had been lost to the weather, there was thankfully no need for contrivance here vesterday. A seam bowlers' saw to that

If the ball continues to move

gritty finale today. So far no one has made a

half-century and all those who have scored runs have needed their share of luck. With the middle of the bat difficult to locate, the nick through the slips has tended to be the featured stroke. Odd, therefore, that both sides felt they could do periods

Having sampled 11 testing tershire's accuracy wavered

about it should be a right old overs when they were put in on the first day, Gloucester-shire knew what to expect but, if anything, the ball tended to dart around more on a surface that had sweated under the covers for 48 hours.

> evenly, too. Thus only bowling that was either very full or very short tainty. It was only when Worces-

half-volleys away, and Matt Windows, making the most of any width that came his way, were able to add 85 for the fourth wicket. This pitch seemed ideal for Sometimes it bounced unbowlers of around medium

that Tony Wright, putting the

pace, able to put the ball in the right place consistently.

When David Leatherdale ap-Wright caught behind and mov- but when Tom Moody lost his much as this pitch would pering the ball from a full length leg stump to a yorker from mit.

best figures of his career. wickets disappeared for 35 As often happens in these

Worcestershire betted Abdul Hafeez turned something re-

Tykes storm to victory

went on to take five for 20, the Countney Walsh, Worcestershire knew that torrid times lay Gloucestershire's last seven ahead. When Phil Weston was caught off bat and pad, it was 12 for 3.

Mark Alleyne, discovering he conditions, not everyone got out could also move the ball around to an unplayable ball. When at an accurate medium pace, prising out Vikram Solanki and Gavin Haynes, which left the sembling a leg stump half- two Yorkshiremen, Leatherdale

Wasim lifts Lancashire

By MYLES HODGSON at Old Trafford

Lancashire v Surrey

SURREY, THE County Championship leaders, were dismissed for a lowly 146 as Lancashire exploited seamer-friendly conditions to boost their own title ambitions in their weather-hit match at Old Trafford yesterday.

Put into bat after the opening day was washed out, Surrev struggled to withstand superb bowling displays from the Lancashire captain Wasim Akram

and the former England fast Jason Ratcliffe caught by Mike bowler Peter Martin, who shared seven wickets between them.

Fielding a depleted line-up with Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe on England duty, Ian jured and Saglain Mushtag back in Pakistan because of a family illness, Surrey only reached three figures after the tail-enders Joey Benjamin and Martin Bicknell provided battling late resistance.

demise by having the opener Lancashire in command.

Watkinson at third slip in the eighth over of the day. Then Wasim, who claimed seven wickets in Lancashire's victory over Somerset last week which lifted them to sixth in the Champi-Salisbury and Mark Butcher in- onship, responded swiftly to remove Ian Ward and Nadeem

Shahid in quick succession. The Surrey captain Adam Hollioake briefly steadied his side's innings with a battling 49run partnership with Ally Brown before Martin struck again after Martin began Surrey's lunch to remove both and put

DURHAM WERE hoping for a but Michael Vaughan pressed victory to lift them to within a on to advance from 118 to 177, point of the Championship lead- the highest score yet made at ers Surrey yesterday but, after claiming a first-innings lead against Yorkshire at Chester-le-Street, the hosts collapsed to 74 out, bowled by Mike Foster all out in their second innings, Yorkshire cruising to the 93

runs needed for victory for the

loss of just one wicket. story earlier when Yorkshire resumed in the morning on 235 for 8. still 102 behind. Durham concentrated their efforts on removing the last two batsmen,

Boon lbw, and shell-shocked Durham capitulated on a blameless pitch. the four-year-old ground.

batting for 437 minutes. Yorkshire were all out for a total of 319, 18 runs behind. But It had looked a different then, with five overs to go until lunch, Paul Huchison removed Jon Lewis and Nick Speak with successive balls to leave

Durham on 18 for 2. Huchison

followed up by trapping David

Vaughan was only six short of

his career best when he was

The left-arm spinner, Richard Stemp, picked up some easy wickets at the end of the innings to finish with 4 for 13 in when going for a big drive after 21 overs, while the two pacemen, Huchison and Rvan Sidebot-

tom, took three wickets each. It was the lowest total at the Riverside ground, beating Durham's 85 against Kent in 1995, and their only lower total in first-class cricket was the 67 they made against Middlesex at Lord's in 1996.

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Lancashire v Surrey

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 2 of 4) Lancastire traff Surrey by 77 runs with 6 First lendings wickets in hand. Lancashire WON 1055 SURREY --. First Inchiga

J D Ratcliffe c Watdinson b Martin.......11 0 2 36 27 1 0 0 12 30 I J Ward b Wasim Akram.... Shahid Ibw b Wasim Akram ... "A J Hofficake c Wasim Akram b Mardr22 0 2 51 78 A D Brown c Flintoff b Martin26 0 3 44 51 ...5 0 0 15 15 1) N Batty b Wasim Akram..... A J Tudor c Wasim Akram b Green _____1 0 0 17 23 M P Birknell c Crawley b Chapple _____41 0 2 67 68 ..15 0 3 24 38 J E Benjamin run Out..... R M Amin not out..... Extras (b? lb4 w6 nb6)17

Total (53 overs) _____146 Fall: 1-13. 2-13, 3-16. 4-64. 5-67. 6-73. 7-82, 8-94, utling: Wasim Akram 19-6-42-4; P.J. Mardin 17-5-35-9-134. 3; R.J Green 9-1-32-1; G Chapple 8,1-1-32-1.

LANCASHIRE - First limings **#1** 56 45 86 Min 34 0 4 63 97 P C McKeown not out 5 0 0 27 32 N T Wood c Tudor & Benjamin -...3 0 0 14 14 t) P Crawley c Ward b Benjamin ... _o o o 6 5 A Frintoff c Barry b Tudor 21 0 3 25 39 G D Lloyd b Tudor Extres (64 nb2) ... Total (for 4, 22 overs) -Fall: 1-16. 2-30, 3-31, 4-69. To bet M E Harvey, M Watkinson, Wasim Akram, G Chap-

Bowling: M.P. Bicknell 6-3-10-0; J E Benjamin 8-1-25-2; A J Tudor 5.2-0-20-2; A J Holioake 3-1-10-0. Impires: J H Harris and J H Hampshire

Durham v Yorkshire

RIVERSIDE (Day 3 of 4) Yorkshire (23pts) bees Durham (7pts) by 9 wkts

DURHAM -- First YORKSHIRE -- First Insings 319(Vanzhan 177) DURHAM -- Second beings M A Gough low b Stemp. N J Speak flow b Hutchison...

M P Speight c Byas b Sidebottom4 0 1 20

Fall: 1-16, 2-16, 3-26, 4-30, 5-39, 6-47, 7-54, 8-54,

Bourling: P M Hutchison 10-4-22-3: M J Hoggard 1-0-10-0: R D Stemp 21-17-13-4; R J Sidebottom 9-3-13-3; G M Hamilton 3-0-13-0.

To bate D S Letunann, M J Wood, R J Blakey, G M Hamil-

ron, R D Stemp, M J Hoggard, R J Sidebottom, P M Hunchi-

Bowling: M M Betts 4-0-23-0; S J Harmison 6-0-42-0; N

CARDITT (Day 3 of 4) Glamorgan traff Leicestershire by 218 runs suith 7 First lunings wickets in hand.

I J Subcliffe C Shaw b Wager Younks........ 0 0 0 1

...33 0 3 35 35

.....36 1 2 56 -6918 0 3 24 31

_16 0 3 36 52

.....101 2 14 186 234 tP A Nixon not out ... A D Mulially run out..... M T Brimson c Law b Coske Extras (b4 lb12 nb4) Total (95 overs) _____292
Pall: 1-8, 2-8, 3-73, 4-73, 5-102, 6-146, 7-253, 8-274, 9-276. Bowling: Waçar Younis 14-2-35-2; O T Parkin 17-7-27-1: D A Cosker 20.3-3-53-2; S D Thomas 22-5-71-2; G P Butcher 14-2-58-1; W L Law 8-1-31-1.

GLAMORGAN -- First innings W L Law not out.11 0 1 25 349 0 1 12 Extras (b1 lb1 nb8) ...

Total (3 wists dec 29 overs)74 Palf: 1-23, 2-63, 3-63. Diet Mor batz G P Butcher, A D Shaw, Wagar Younis, D A Costos: S D Thomas, O T Parkin. Bourling: A D Multally 6-3-12-1; C C Lewis 5-2-17-0; J M Dakin 8-3-14-0; P V Simmons 3-2-11-0; V J Wells 6-0-18-2: M T Brimson 1-1-0-0. trest D R Shepherd and A Clarkson

Hampshire v Derbyshire

K D James c Tweats b Lacey

*R A Smith not out....

BASINGSTOKE (Day 3 of 4) Hampshire trail Derbyshire by 150 runs with 7 First hadings witkets in Hampshire won toss

DERBYSHIRE — First Innings 350(Rollins 89) HAMPSHERE — Flyst lacings _24 0 3 93 107

_40 0 7105124 Total (for 3, 72 overs) ... Fatte 1-4, 2-35, 3-77. To base C A Connor, A D Mascarenhas, P R Whitakes, S D Udai, P J Hartley, N A M McLean. Bountag: P A J DeFreiras 19-8-37-0; K J Dean 11-5-17-1: P Aldred 9-1-24-1; S J Lacey 19.1-5-68-1; G M Roberts Umphase V A Holder and B Leadle

.....101 016165 167

CRICKET SCOREBOARD Kent v Nottinghamshire by 173 runs with 9 Sec

Kent won loss NOTTINGHA KENT - First Indians 283(New 115) NOTTINGHAMSHERE — Second landings Rans 66 4s Bis Bilo J E R Gaillan not out U Afzaal c Marsh b McCague...

R T Robinson not out... To bet: P Johnson, G F Archer, P J Franks, C M W Read, P N Starrey, In N Bowell, A R Coath. Bowthag: M J McCague 10-1-35-1; B J Phillips 13-3-28-b; M V Fleming 10-5-15-0; J De la Pena 4-0-19-0; C L Hoop-er 12-2-29-0; M J Walker 3-0-18-0; T R Ward 0,2-0-2-0.

Northamptonshire v Middlesex

NORTHAMPTON (Day 3 of 4) Middlese: won toss

R J Warren b Bloomfiek A J Swarm b Bloomfield M B Loye c Brown b Hewit R J Balley b Hewitt....
*K M Curran b Bloom A L Penberthy not out... ...47 0 7111 144 D Follett not out Enderas (01 lb5 w6 nb16) Total (for 6, 81 overs) _____265 Fall: 1-3, 2-4, 3-50, 4-138, 5-193, 6-266. To bat: F A Rose, D E Malcolm

Bowling: J P Hewitt 20-5-78-2; T F Bloomfield 15-8-34-3; N D Martin 12-1-61-0; P C R Turnell 20-4-56-0; P N Weekes 9-3-22-0; O A Shah 4-1-9-0; J L Langer 1,5-1-0-

Upppires: A A Jones and R Palmer Somerset v Essex

BATH (Day 3 of 4) Somerset lead Essex by 299 runs Essex won toss SOMERSET — First Indiago 231

SOMERSET — Second landings "P D Bowler Row b Rott. L Holloway Bw b Such Harden c Rollins b Grayson V Lathwell b Grayson Terreer Rollins b Law kulbedi not out G D Rose not out Extras (b1 lb3 nb14) .

Sussex v Warwickshire Sisser won (ccs WARNICOSHIRE — First lunings 490-9 declared (Pi ell 132, Knight 159, Penney 53ao) SUSSEX --- First bookings

pires: M. J. Kitchen and J. W. Lloyds Worcestershire v Gloucestershire WORCESTER (Day 3 of 4) Worcestershire to Gloucestershire by 88 runs with 2 first healings wie ets in hand. Worcestershire won loss

Wortesterstare was part tentage GLOUCESTERSTARE — First tentage Ruse 6s 4s Bis Min | Rices 6s Air

Bowling: P.J. Newport 12-1-46-0; A Sheriya: 4-0-18-0; S R Lampit: 11-2-36-2; T.M. Moody 16-6-42-3; G.R. Haynes 6-2-16-0; R.K. Illingworth 3-0-7-0; D.A. Leatherdale 9.S-4-WORCESTERSHIRE - Hirst hunbags

| Rtems 6s As Bils Miln | W P C Weston c Windows b Walsh | 6 0 0 32 42 A Hafeez c Windows b Lewis | 0 0 0 7 11 T M Moody b Walsh | 10 0 9 6 V S Solarid c Williams b Alleyne | 24 0 4 65 68 G R Haynes c Ball b Alleyne | 21 0 3 32 41 D A Leatherdale not out | 19 0 3 67 98 15 J Rhodes c Macmillan b Walsh | 14 0 3 26 35 S R Lampit c Hancock b Walsh | 10 0 9 14 R K Itingworth c Ball b Walsh | 0 0 0 0 1 0 P J Newport not out | 10 0 1 22 15 Estras (nb4) | 4 To bat: A Sheriyar.

Bowfing: C A Walsh 14.5-4-38-5; J Lewis 13-4-24-1; A M Smith 8-2-26-0; M W Alleyne 9-4-12-2.

Umpires: H D Bird and P Wiley Second XI Championship Coventry & North Warwick: Warwickshire v Susser. The match was abandoned without a ball being bowled. Taunton: Kent 266 and 197 (E.J. Stanford 53, P. 5 Jones 4-35) Somerset 250-7dec and 214-2 (K.A. Parsons 92no, J.I.D. Kerr 59no).

Today's fixtures (11.00 unless stated) **CORNHILL INSURANCE SECOND TEST**

Lord's: England v South Africa. **BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP**

(Day 3 of 4). Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey (12.00). BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

(Final Day). Riverside: Durham v Yorkshire. Cardiff: Glamtinghamshire, Northampton: Northampton-

organ v Lekcestershire (12.00). Basingstoke: Hampshire v Derbyshire. Camberburg: Kent v Notshire v Middlesex (12.00). Bath: Somerset v Essex. Howe: Sussex v Warwickshire (13.00). Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire.

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Inspirational Ince ready for action

England's midfield general says there is more to his game than tough tackling. By Adam Szreter

WHILE Paul Scholes and Alan Shearer grabbed all the headlines following England's 2-0 victory over Tunisia in Marseilles last Monday, the foundation for their success had been laid further back in the heart of midfield. Paul Ince, the self-styled "Guvnor" winning his 40th cap, set the example for others to follow with a display that was as aggressive and wholehearted as any game he has played for his country.

His tenacious tackling, allied to a high-class all-round game, has elevated the former West Ham and Manchester United player to a position of credibility in the world game, especially since his spell with Internazionale where he won the hearts of the Milanese fans before returning to England as the Liverpool captain. Indeed, when seasoned observers compare the current England side with the World Cup winners of 1966, they point to a lack of world-class players, but there are few, if any, more effective defensive midfield players than Ince playing for any team in the tournamen

"I think I've improved technically as a player since I've been to Italy," Ince explained yesterday, in a very good-humoured interview at England's training camp in La Baule. "Before I was a bit raw. Also the older you get, the more experienced you get and I think that helps a player. You learn to conserve your energy, you know when to go for a ball and when Southgate's injury responding to treatment not to, instead of running

By JOHN CURTIS

GARETH SOUTHGATE is still

England's only doubt for Mon-

day's game against Romania in

in La Baule

Ince's partnership with Paul Gascoigne in midfield was one of the more fruitful international liaisons of recent times - England only lost once in 18 games they started together but, with Gascoigne gone, Ince is forging a new double act, albeit of a slightly different nature, with Newcastle United's David Batty.

"I think we're starting to blossom as a partnership and I don't think we get the credit er's playing."

cate one another but Ince refutes that "I wouldn't say we're similar styles," he said. "I like to get forward a lot more. It's only the fact that I've spent most of my career as a holding player that people say we're similar. Last year I got 10 goals in Serie A and this year I scored eight goals in the Premiership so I think we're different in that way. But for England we've just got a job to hold and pro-

tect our back four." Ince's proudest moment in an England shirt was undoubtedly captaining them to a goalless draw in the absence of Alan Shearer in the decisive World Cup qualifier in Rome

ankle problems. But Teddy

Sheringham (hamstring), Alan

Shearer and Tony Adams (sore

feet) were all put through their

paces during a 90-minute ses-

camp here.

sion at the England training

we deserve," Ince said. "People always look at the flair players and the goalscorers, but as far as far as I'm concerned we do a very good job in there. All the chasing and harrying puts their players under pressure and gives us a chance to get the ball to Scholes or Becks or whoev-Some would say playing both Ince and Batty is at times too negative, as their roles dupli-

> 'It's happened at Liverpool a few times when we've been struggling, then someone gets a crunching tackle in and it lifts everyone else' when fit there is no doubt Ince i s a natural leader.

"On the field I'm a nasty person," he said. "I'm really, really horrible because I want to win so badly and I slaughter the lads all the time. If someone's not up to scratch I'll tell them. If I make a mistake I'll say sorry but I do go off my trolley when I'm out on the pitch and for that

but he admitted that it is too

soon to decide whether he will

be fit to face the Romanians.

Hoddle said: "We have only

the one injury - Gareth South-gate - and he has improved

considerably so that is good

one's doing the right thing. I think you need people like that. Probably Tony Adams does it in a calmer way, I do it in a more ferocious way. It keeps players on their toes."

His aggressive style inevitably made Ince a focus of special attention when Fifa's new guidelines regarding foul play were first published "Glenn had a chat with me going the way you want it to go,

ankle at the same time. It is re-

Hoddle added: "The other

three [Shearer, Adams and

Sheringham] all trained today

with no problems. In Adams'

case he has had two days' rest

sponding to treatment."

stay on your feet, which wasn't a problem as far as I was concerned. I'm a hard tackler but I'm a fair tackler. I think the problem could be if you're getting beat 2-0, the game's slipping away or someone does one

of your team-mates with a bad tackle, then you might go for it.

World Cup organisers yes-

terday challenged a travel com-

pany which claims it has had

had 15,000 finals tickets stolen

to produce the match and seat

On Thursday the American

flying colours."

and said it was important to I can't see any of our lads getting sent off.

I don't think my game's just about tackling though," ince added, but whether he likes it or not it will always be his tackling which sets him apart. "I like to set the tone of the game," he said, "and in order to do that you want to get It can happen. But if the game's a tackle in as early as possible

thousands of dollars had been

stolen from its Paris office.

But when seats were checked

at Thursday's France against

Saudi Arabia match, for which

places were found to be occu-

PSI supplied 504 tickets, the

happened at Liverpool a few times when we've been struggling, then someone gets a crunching tackle in and it lifts everyone else. I think it's a very important part of the game."

Nobody in their right mind is going to argue with that and England will be hoping that the Romanians are suitably impressed when the teams meet

PSI has offered a £100,000 reward to recover the stolen tickets, which it claims are for all

subsequent matches apart from

the second round. It has also

criticised both the organisers

and French police, saying they

were trying to cover up the

poor organisation of ticket dis-

David Ashdown



ONE POSSIBLE way of avoiding the red card mania suddenly seizing World Cup referees might be to follow Cameroon's lead and commit to memory the first name of the match official before taking the field. "The referee will spect a player more who says 'Sir' and adds his name," explained the Cameroon coach, Claude Le Roy. However the Le Roy ploy did not help Raymond Kalla when the Cameroon defender was dismissed for a foul on the Italian goalscorer, Luigi Di Biagio, in Montpellier first match [a 1-0 defeat of

on Wednesday. JUST FONTAINE, the Frenchman who scored a record 13 goals in the 1958 World Cup, believes his record will stand for all time, claiming modern teams are too defensive and coaches too cautious. "Today's coaches are too important, more important than the players," said the 64year-old. "Coaches only use one or two forwards and prefer to play defensive players because they are easier to organise. Playing that way, my record could last another 50 World Cups. Look at Gabriel Batistuta in Argentina's first game with Japan. He had only two chances and scored one. I always had many more chances when I

The same

Company of the Company

ा सम्बद्ध

PETER SCHMEICHEL is determined to miss nothing on the field - and nothing off it. The Manchester United goalkeeper, who equalled Morten Olsen's record of 102 Danish caps against South Africa on Thursday in Toulouse, is filming every moment of his first World Cup finals in and around the training

camp on a camcorder.

was playing."

AMISCHIEVOUS rumour is drawing a chuckle from those of the Celtic persuasion in the Scotland camp. It claims that Lou Macari has turned down the opportunity to take over as the Australian national coach because they would not let him do the job from Stoke-on-Trent.

TREVOR HAYLETT

news. He has a bit of a foot after every game all season as The coach, Glenn Hoddle, is The Aston Villa defender problem on his sole which is a precaution. But he came was ruled out of yesterday's hopeful that Southgate will be quite painful and he's run awkable to return to training today. Our PC's loaded, Pentium* II processor Internet access our price

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Muny Gateway products are custom-originated to Gateway specifications. Which may vary from the reliable variety and the respective to the provided and the provided and the respective to the provided to the software and provided to the so

tour operator, Prime Sport In-pied by fans with valid tickets. Romania disavow a violent legacy

TIME WAS when Fifa's unnecessary meddling with the process of fair play - five players sent off on Thursday and a blizzard of yellow cards - would have considerably shortened the odds against Romania completing next week's match against England in Toulouse with 11 men still on the field.

Tough was hardly the word for them. Coming up against England at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, the only previous meeting between them in the finals, Romania maintained a reputation for brutal fouling. Even though Alf Ramsey had warned us the Romanians were harder than we expected,"

Martin Peters recalled. Peters, who would have further cause to be wary when turning out against Romanian clubs for Tottenham Hotspur, doesn't remember a great deal more about England's 1-0 victory in Guadalajara 28 years ago other than the viciousness and Geoff Hurst's goal. "It was our first match and we were just glad to get through it without anyone getting seriously hurt,"

he added. In fact, England's right-back, Keith Newton of Blackburn Rovers, whose death earlier this week at only 56 caused Peters to reflect again on life's perspective (four years after the loss of Bobby Moore), was so badly kicked by Romania's main hatchet man, Mihai Mocanu, that he had to go off. Next, Mocanu chalked up Newton's replacement, Tommy Wright, before setting about Francis Lee. If never slow to get his retaliation in first, Lee said afterwards that he had never felt so much pain: "I thought the bastard had broken my leg."

True to the philosophy of that time, the Bulgarian referee, Vital Loraux, took no action other than to award England a succession of free kicks. "It's interesting to see how much the Romanians appear to have changed," Peters added.

ed States saw Romania putting that our performance in the The 1994 finals in the Unit-



JONES

greater emphasis on natural close-quarter skills, astute passing and imaginative longrange attempts on goal. indulged more by their national team than the foreign clubs who have often found them a liability, Gheorghe Hagi and Ilie Dumitrescu were the stars of the team that eventually reached

the quarter-finals. Romania's coach since before the 1994 tournament, and an outstanding midfielder in his day, Angel Iordanescu, draws a veil over the hostility once associated with his country's football. "That history is not my concern," he replied this week when the thought was related to him by a member of the Ro-

manian delegation. One thing Tordanescu shares with England's coach, Glenn Hoddle, is a deep mistrust of the people who are employed to bring him under interrogation. Fulfilling only the weekly obligation of two press conferences and one open training session required by the World Cup Organising Committee he says: We are here to play football not for idle conversation."

Iordanescu is, nevertheless, acutely aware of the need to deal with the disenchantment raised by his decision to resign and to take over the Greek national team once the tournament is over. Speaking this week at Romania's headquarters, "La Reserve", near to the small city of Albi some 40 miles from Toulouse, he said, "I hope

Although not entirely happy with the effort against Colombia - "we should have kept the ball better after scoring at the beginning of the second half"-Iordanescu believes that his team is good enough to secure a place in the second round of matches. "England have strong players in the midfield and intelligent attackers but we have seen things from their match

Colombia] will help solve prob-

lems with the Romanian press

and bring things back to nor-mal. It is difficult to make

preparation for such important

matches when there are these

diversions and people who are

not qualified telling me which

players to select."

against Timisia in Marseilles to encourage us," he says. Doubtless concerned about the physical nature of English football (possibly the reason for Romania's nastiness in the 1970 finals and later inter-club conflicts) Iordanescu holds frequent discussions with the Chelsea wing-back Dan Petrescu who is not available for general comment due to the contract he has with an English

"Football mentality differs from country to country," Romania's coach says. "Petrescu helps us understand how English players think but he doesn't have to tell me that they always have great spirit." Long since released from the

ideological constraints imposed by totalitarian rule, Romanian footballers take happily to migration. Only six of the present squad, including the 23-year-old defender Christian Dulca, who is being watched by a number of English and German clubs, play in their homeland. For Iordanescu, who is about to become a mercenary himself, the problem may be an attitude different from that which prevailed when Mocanu went

around kicking England players in Mexico. It isn't the State they play for now but contracts United States v Iran: Match between political adversaries provides added spice to a must-win situation in Group F

Tranians face their moment of history

Iran against the United States is billed as a grudge match, but it could finish with grudging respect. By Andrew Longmore

MEHRDAD MASOUDI has lived his Mansourian, Khodadad Azizi and life by World Cups. The genius of the 1970 Brazilian side emerged dimly through the flickering waves of a black and white television set at his uncle's house in Tehran, stirring an interest in football which has turned into a passion.

Ten days before the start of the 1986 World Cup which he was due to report for a national newspaper, homeland. "For personal reasons", he says, discouraging further questions. He arrived at his new accommodation in Cambridge on June 5th in the middle of the Argentina-Italy match: "The first question I asked was not 'Where should I sleep' or 'What is there to eat?' I wanted to know the score." One-one, Maradona and Altobelli (penalty) Masoudi is Iran's Statto.

A love for football has been the one constant thread running hrough a complex tapestry. At high chool, he was threatened with expulsion for playing football during prayer time. In the Iran-Iraq war, when some Iraqi prisoners said their favourite sport was football, he organised a tournament. For the last three years, he has been working as media officer for the Canadian Soccer Federation. Now, as Fifa liaison officer in Lyon, he has been pitched into a match between the two halves of his life which will test the healing powers of football to the limit.

Iraq has superseded Iran as Public Enemy No 1 in middle America. Both sides are trying to neutralise relations for the first time in 19 years. But temperatures still run high over the treatment of US hostages 1979 just as the idiom of the ntanic West still lingers over certain quarters of Tehran. "Whenever the US and Iran enter the same sentence, there are political over-

I()/I

toges, whether it is sport or anything else," Masoudi says. When Iran qualified for the World Cup, the whole of Iran took to the streets, precipitating a wave of liberation which reminded Western observers of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Young women shed their veils and danced in the street, alcohol was drunk openly in the neighbourhood and the revolutionary guards, under the control of the militant Islamic fundamentalists, were instructed to stay inside their barracks.

More than 80,000 people greeted the team at the national stadium, 5,000 of them women who forced down a gate to get in. The chant that day was: "Az Jam-e Jahani, Be Jame-eh Jahani", which roughly translated means "From the World Cup to the people of the world." Among the younger generation largely responsible for the rise to power of the more moderate President Khatami, Iran's presence in the World Cup was a chance not to reawaken old differences, but promote similarities.

Trying to unpick the complex set of motives in the minds of the Iranian team this past week would have defied the most astute of diplomats. A press conference on Tuesday by three senior players - Ali Reza

Mohammad Khakpour - was devoted entirely to accusations against the French government over the broadcast of the US-made film Not Without my Daughter on an independent television station, seemingly unaware that their protest highlighted the paranoia rather than the discourtesy. As it was, Azizi threatened not to wear his bright yellow Masoudi was forced to leave his Fifa Fair Play cap again in this tournament. Tomorrow, by happy chance, is Fifa Fair Play day.

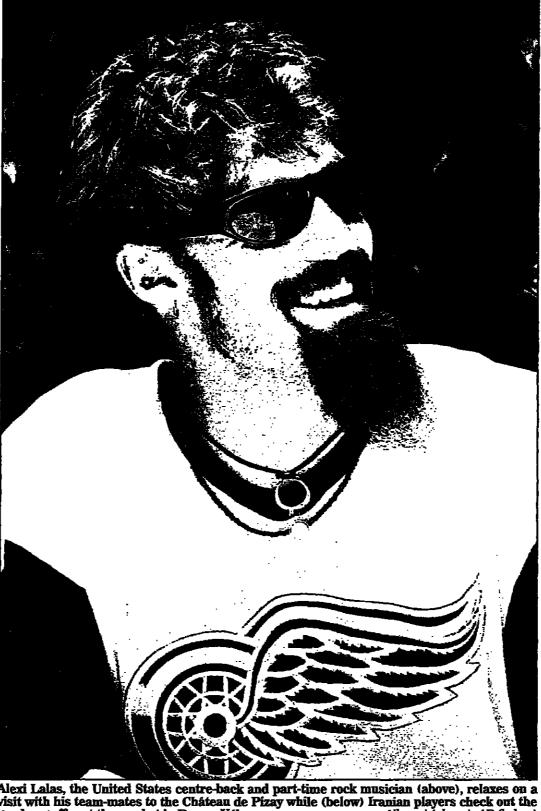
"It is imperative that we win against the US," Azizi said. "For historical reasons, our country is a lot more sensitive to this meeting. Iran has been disappointed by American politics in recent years. This is the most important match of my life." Mansourian, one of four members of the squad playing professionally in the West, is better versed in the art of taking each game as it comes. "This will be a match like any other even if many think otherwise," he says. "Thanks to the World Cup, the whole world can discover our country. We realise that we are ambassadors. Back home all that counts is the game."

Masoudi returned to Iran for the first time in 11 years last summer. "Iran is a young country and football is the only source of public enjoyment, the only place where authority can be openly flouted and people can express themselves freely. They can jeer the coach and even the Minister of Sport without fear. In other countries football has been used by the politicians for propaganda. With us, football is manipulating the politicians."

President Khat message of goodwill to the Iranian team. The Islamic fundamentalists. who wanted to ban football after the revolution, have largely been silent. The only conflict between religion and sport came on the eve of their opening game against Yugoslavia which coincided with the 40th day of observance of the death of Imam Hussain. The three-hour ceremony lasted until after 11pm, much to the annoyance of the coach, Jalai Talebi.

Yesterday, Talebi took pains to diffuse the tension over the film. The team would, he said, offer a rose to each of the American players before the match just as they did to the Yugoslavs, "And we will exchange shirts afterwards too. We will not be changing any of our routine just because it's the US. We need to win because our last game against Germany will be the hardest."

The Iranian team were guests of honour at a special Persian dinner in the sports hall in Yssingeaux last Wednesday night. The Mayor wished for a final between Iran and France, the diners stamped their feet and the children waved Iranian flags. "The people of Iran just want the politicians to leave football alone," Mahsoudi concludes. "The players want to do well for themselves as much as anyone. If Iran wins, the people will dance in the streets, not for beating the US, but in celebration at our first-ever win in the World Cup." He will log the date, June 21 1998.

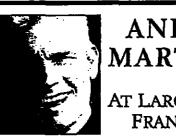


Alexi Lalas, the United States centre-back and part-time rock musician (above), relaxes on a visit with his team-mates to the Château de Pizay while (below) Iranian players check out the goods on offer at the market in Puy-en-Vélay Allsport (above); AP (below)



Americans follow the party line

WORLD CUP/29



ANDY AT LARGE IN FRANCE



I DON'T know if the Americans will get through to the next round, but they were sure getting through the rounds in the "bar car" of the Montpellier-Paris TGV.

I should stress that this was fans rather than players, but serious and knowledgeable fans, who had seen seven games in six days, no mere cheerleaders for Uncle Sam's army. Pete from Atlanta was going to check out the Louvre first chance he had, but he admitted that the dream of the other guys in his party was to stroll down the Champs Elysées at night with their arms

around a 12-pack.
Then, at Valence, Hank got on and made us all feel like soldiers in the Salvation Army. He already had one 12-pack under his belt and was soon working his way steadily through the next. A blues singer by trade, with a band called the Glory Hogs, he had come over to France on a concert tour, seen "a million naked babes on the beach", and changed his mind about going back. He was planning to get off at Lyon, but since the train was going at 200 kmph at the time, he changed his mind on that too.

Jim from Chicago (a trader with Merrill Lynch) was reminiscing about the US-Germany game as we replayed the goals on a video camera they had been filming with. "I thought we came from the land of meat and potatoes, but those Germans must be feeding their guys on something we don't know about, because they're twice the size of ours. It was like watching men playing against boys."

The general consensus was not too optimistic about the Iran game either. "It doesn't matter how much I drink," chipped in Patrick (born in Glasgow, moved to Nashville aged 1), "I still can't see us scoring any goals with a 3-6-1 formation. You We all thought that was just a ruse to throw off the Germans. We couldn't believe it when it was for real Sampson [Steve, the US coach] is sacked when he gets back."

You know what we need?" said Pete, trying to strike a more positive note. "Better songs. The England fans taught us the songs they sing

to annoy the Germans. But 'USA all the way' is not going to annoy anybody." Hank, unable to resist the call of duty, made up a few songs on the spot, and proceeded to sing them, at top volume, even without a guitar. "We are going to have our day,/ We are going to make you pay," was one of them. Another was "Iran must die/ The US will fly." The rest were xenophobic enough to make his early efforts sound like nursery

"Don't listen to him," pleaded Jim, who came close to slamming Hank a few times. "He's not representative. The players just want to play. With both teams losing their first game there's a lot on the line, without their having to play politics too. But the fans are putting a lot of pressure on this one."

The Marseilles story had gone down big in the States and their families had been ringing them up anxiously, even when they were in Paris, saying, "Are you OK?" Jason, from Tennessee, wearing a baseball cap on back to front, had a new spin on the troubles. "It wasn't the English who started it - it was the Welsh."

They had run into four Welshmen on the train south who were going there just to stir things up. "They've been passing themselves off as Englishmen, you bet". And it's true that the French, who recognise the Scots because they're all wearing kilts, don't generally discriminate be-tween Welsh and English (they're all Anglais). Marie, from Corsica, who was serving the drinks, conceded that "The English are not all bad."

The talk kept swinging back to polities. "They should have Clinton in the team," said Jason. "He'll score. That guy is worse than a sailor"

I was concerned we were making too much noise in the bar car But Marie reassured me. "Don't worry, gave me her mobile number as we pulled into Paris in case I wanted to talk more about trains and fans. OK. I admit it, I asked her for her number, but she did give it. "Man," whistled Jim as we got off at the Gare de Lyon, "if you're ever out of a job. you'd have a shot at President of the

means typical, though, and drew the

following response on the same

site: "Please refrain from such inani-

ties and such language in the name

On the Iranian Soccer Online

page there is no shortage of fervent

support. "I am very confident that

Voices of Iran

BY RUPERT METCALF

ON THE mad, bad world of the Internet, there is no shortage of news and chat sites dedicated to the Iran- of defending Iran! We might have ian football team. Most of the contributors appear to be Iranian exiles living abroad, but none the less the sites are a decent guide to what the fans are talking about prior to tomorrow's big game against the United States.

On the Iranian Football Page one contributor who should probably remain anonymous has written: "Iran will make Americans eat s**t for another 40 years. Then in 40 years the Americans will start a war against some poor hungry people... win that war and think they are powerful. It makes you wonder, if USA is so brave, why not pick a fight with brave people in Iran?" Such strong words are by no

the Iranians will prevail and kick those cocky American asses. The US is going down this Sunday," wrote A fan on another site, just called Ironian Football, has insisted: "The US team is going to be like Shirley

ladies visting this site."

pop, when the Persian Power gets through with them. My prediction: 4-0 Iran."

Temple from the Good Ship Lolli-

Panel games given life on 'Red Thursday'

WE HAVE grown used to having "Red Nose Day" every two years, but now Fifa is getting into the act with "Red Card Day" every four Last Thursday's five dismissal extravaganza was not a complete surprise because Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini had been moaning about the referees being too lenient. As these two men are, respectively, in charge of Fifa and France 98, what they moan about one day becomes

The crackdown came just in time for the - well what is the collective noun for pundits? An argument of, or jock-strap of? Whatever, both ests had been showing signs of faague and delirium after watching 20 games in the first week. Des Lynam decided to take a day off while those left behind on the BBC team put their hands up and asked "sir" if they

STAN HEY VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR

could go outside on the grass now that it was sunny. They were duly indulged as the roof terrace of Lynam Park became the new focus of their operations. But just like children when they have lessons out of the school, they became a bit giggly and silly with Martin O'Neill successfully winding-up Jimmy Hill, and Gary



The stir-craziness had hit new lows on ITV when Bob Wilson chortled with glee at Rund Gullit's firstform pun on Chile. Judging by that response, Wilson must be in absolute raptures when he sees what Frank Skinner and David Baddiel are down to on the same channel. So "Red Thursday" came as a distinct relief Winding up which the class. in that it was at least an issue of sub-

stance for the panels to get their Unfortunately for ITV, the three

dismissals in the Denmark-South Africa game all came in the second half, after the panel had sat, so judgment was left to Kevin Keegan who seemed to take the line that none of the incidents justified a sending-off. But then it was Kev, if I remember correctly, who saw not much wrong with Brazil's Leonardo smashing his elbow into the face of America's Tab Ramos at USA 94. So it would probferret down an opponent's shorts to get this dour Tyke to back a refer-

ee's red card. The BBC's roof-top quartet had had the luxury of a few hours to smell Fifa's conspiracy unfolding, so they were able to open directly with the issue even before the France-

Saudi Arabia match had lifted the Mackay and Norman Hunter, but bookmakers' "spread" on the redcard total to a new high. David Ginola was initially absent, presumably washing his hair, so Jimmy Hill more or less had the field to himself. Nothing pleases Hill more than his own self-righteousness and it was given full rein on Thursday night. If there is a Viagra for the mouth then he must be on it.

His main point seemed to be that referees had to be capable of discerning the precise level of malice ably require someone to stick a live in a foul before deciding on the colour of the card they should wave. This suggested a naïve perception on Hill's part that any player wishing to commit a foul does so in the style of a pantomime villain in order

to make his intentions clear the days of Tommy Smith, Dave Blanc, but, even as he spoke, the re-

today's professionals bring such an infinite variety of subtlety to the black art of taking out an opponent that referees almost require two heads. Both Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson had mentioned earlier in the week how their first instinct as defenders when an opponent tried to go past them was to put an arm across. "It's in the coaching manual," the Scot had expostulated as though the truth could not be

As Hill acknowledged, we the audience have the privilege of the replay and camera coverage from virtually all angles but the referee makes his decision on what he sees in an instant. During half-time in France's game, Hill was about to This may have been the case in carp over the booking of Laurent

otherwise,

fender with a handful of his Saudi opponent's shirt to pull him down. Hill backtracked on that one, but if he persists in his campaign to vilify referees, particularly those he regards as coming from minor football cultures, his argument can only end in one result - games being halted while the fourth official watches a television replay on the touchline in order to adjudicate on any controversial decisions. Fifa will not take much nudging to go down this

So does Jimmy Hill really want that to happen? Quite apart from killing the continuity that makes football such a wonderful spectacle, it would also remove the need for television panels entirely. Somebody get me Sepp Blatter's phone



The France striker Christophe Dugarry seems set to miss the rest of the World Cup after suffering a torn right hamstring in the 4-0 victory over Saudi Arabia on Thursday

French stay in optimistic mood

FRANCE COUNTED the cost yesterday of their 4-0 demolition of Saudi Arabia which left their playmaker Zinedine Zidane facing a two-game suspension and Marseilles striker Christophe Dugarry injured and doubtful to play again at the bonus of Auxerre's Stephane it's only just starting. There are

muscle has given a big chance opening match. But there is no ers. Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet, who came on as substitute for Dugarry. They looked so sharp and at ease to- style and tactics. gether that they seem set to continue as a partnership.

Henry netted twice against the Saudis and is the joint top scorer at the finals with three goals, while Trézéguet got off the mark after coming off the bench, The French coach, Airné Guivarc'h available again after Dugarry's torn right thigh getting injured in France's midfield and his loss will inevitably involve a change in

> France's captain, Didier Deschamps, tried to play down the maker for what may well be a

importance of the loss of Zidane, "It's a nuisance because Zinedine plays an important part in our tactical scheme but we have 22 players here and we must all fight together." he Jacquet, will also have the said. "We need everybody and plenty of reasons for us to be very optimistic."

who runs the French show in Jacquet would probably have Robert Pires as the playmaker, rested Zidane anyway for France's last match against Denmark on June 24 in Lyon. But the likely loss of their play-

for Jacouet. We have qualified for the

second round, which is the

main thing, and we must win

our next match." Jacquet said. "Our goal will always be victory, even without Zidane."

though neither of them normally take on the role for their

clubs. Pìres said he was not afraid of the challenge. "Even if I'm

Zinedine. If I do so, I hope the other players will trust me in the same way they trust him."

Though the team felt sorry for Dugarry, who had earned his place after coming on as Jacquet's options include substitute for the injured Guiv-With France already sure of using either the Internazionale arc'h against South Africa and their place in the last 16, striker Youri Djorkaeff or scoring France's first goal, the replacements seemed ready for the fray.

he said.

year-old Trezeguet, who has yet Thursday, have not given up in that is a strong possibility," more important.

be irksome, at the very least. player, I'm ready to replace I'm ready and ambitious. We one point from two games, have to be ambitious. We can win this thing." Henry, 20, like his friend

Trézéguet, confirmed he was feeling great. "It's true that I'm in shape," he said. "I'm able to use my speed to trouble defenders but that's what I'm here for Now I have to stay focused. We've still got a long way

South Africa, embroiled in to start a match for France. "I their quest to reach the second Troussier said.

their coach, Philippe Troussier, said yesterday that he was congroup match on Wednesday.

But to turn round a four-goal difference in the standings they would need to beat the Saudis over South Korea, aim to secure comprehensively and hope qualification tonight. "We hope France put a few goals past we can secure a good result

Denmark.

Bergkamp trump for attacking Dutchmen

DENNIS BERGKAMP will tonight start his first game for seven weeks - which may guarantee the Dutch score their first goal of the 1998 finals and that South Korea's winless World Cup run continues.

The Koreans have no illusions about their chances in the Group E game in Marseilles against a side who, without the suspended Patrick Kluivert, want to make up for the disap. pointing 0-0 draw in the opening game against Belgium. "Tm hoping for a goalless draw against the Netherlands. If we take a point, then maybe we can beat Belgium to go through to the second round," said South Korea's coach, Cha Bum-kun.

For the Netherlands, the match is a repeat of what might be called the Belgian problem. The other teams in the group regard the Dutch as favourites and will aim to stop their attack. The strategy may be unattractive but, as the Belgians showed on Saturday, the Dutch front line can be blunted.

The Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, will attack along both flanks and believes a fully fit Bergkamp - he played 25 minutes against the Belgians after recovering from a hamstring pull - will make the most of a stream of chances.

The South Koreans are likely to play one, maybe two, up front and defend in numbers. Hiddink has hinted he will partner Bergkamp with Ronald de Boer, normally an attacking midfielder, rather than Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, whose first touch was missing last Saturday.

Belgium's coach, George Leekens, is to turn to Enzo Scifo against Mexico in Bordeaux today after settling a year. Scifo is one of three changes from the starting linetricky second-round fixture will not exactly the same type of want to play in all the matches. round Although they have only up against the Dutch. Defenders Eric Deflandre and Gordan Vidovic are the others.

Leekens may be forced to fident South Africa could over- make a fourth alteration if ancome Saudi Arabia in their last other veteran, his captain Franky van der Elst, fails to recover from a groin injury.

The Mexicans, 3-1 winners "We need France to beat one victory," defender Claudio "I wanted to score. Now I the battle of the red cards in Denmark and we have seen Suarez said. "It was an imporwant to do it again." said the 20- their 1-1 draw with Denmark on enough of both teams to believe tant victory but what's ahead is

THE GLOBAL **GAME**

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"An infantile Colombian cof- "This squad, bound for four fee picker wearing a dunce's hat and holding a Fifa referee certificate. [Fifa should] immediately return him home to the coffee plantations and drug kings for a life sentence with the message to never again show up at a have prompted the federation World Cup." "BT", a Copen- to sack Kasperczak." "La hagen tabloid newspaper (not a telephone company) on Sür John Toro Rendon, the referee who sent off two Danes against Saudi Arabia.

"For still unknown reasons equipped Toro with [referee] clothes, a whistle and not least cards. And those he used. Mostly blindly." "EkstraBladet", another Copenhagen tabloid.

years now by Kasperczak's words of caution, no longer knows how to attack, how to play offensive football or how to take risks. (Losing to Burkina Faso in the African Nations' Cup this year] should Presse", newspaper, Tunis, loses faith in Tunisia's coach, Henryk Kasperczak.

"With 10 men against 11 what had already been a difficult task was made virtually imsomebody in Fifa has possible. However they held out for as long as they could by closing ranks and rolling up their sleeves." "France Soir" on Saudi Arabia.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf

Scots keen to confound history

FOLLOWING TWO very respectable performances from Scotland, a general air of confidence has settled over the squad and the Tartan Army of supporters as well.

In the game against Norway, there was an assuredness that was almost unrecognisable from a Caledonian World Cun group. With only Morocco in the way, Scotland can actually be looked upon as favourites to emerge from the group, along with Brazil. This is very con-

History warns us that if there is a complex and tortuous way of falling at the last hurdle Scotland will invariably find it. Whether it's beating the eventual finalists as we did in Argentina 1978, but still managing to lose to Peru, or going out without losing a game in Germany in 1974, or the goal difference sadness of 1982 in Spain, the pain remains the same. Scottish journalists sat up late the other night working



2-1 and Scotland draw with Morocco 2-2, or if Brazil win 1-0 and Scotland finish 0-0, then our fate will be decided by the drawing of lots. If this does happen we will lose that draw, it is the way of things for us. Most Scots wouldn't even bother to turn up for the sight of us

choosing the short straw. At Bordeaux airport after the 1-1 draw with Norway I witnessed some incredible sights. Not only were the fans dancing Highland flings to the beat of a Norwegian band, but the odd

resembled one big ceilidh, attracting more cheery tcheuchters (happy Highlanders) than a free bar in It struck me that many were concentrating hard on the revelries in an attempt to forget that it could all end in tears, no matter how well the team plays.

But it looks so good. Brazil,

already certain of finishing first in the group, should beat Norway - if only to restore some pride after a 4-2 defeat the last time they met in May 1997. Scotland on the other hand looked so positive, so well balanced at the end of the draw in Bordeaux that anything like a repeat performance should be enough to overcome the Moroccans. Part of the reason for Scotland's excellent form in the last quarter of that game was the introduction of Jackie MacNamara. Craig Brown had steadfastly refused to play the

er of the year was being unfairly overlooked.

There is an accepted wisdom that he is not that good a de-Aberdeen on a Saturday night. fender, that those raking forward runs suffused with skill and vision, conceal a basic weakness in defence. Nonsense. Playing against him last season in the Scottish Premier League he was the most difficult player to beat and among the most adroit at positioning

himself in a back five. There is also a widely held belief that he is not physically imposing enough, again this is unfounded. He is tall enough to challenge any forward, he leaps well for his height and his timing more than makes up for any deficiency in bulk. When he came on against the Norwegians, he managed to get forward and attack a high ball at the back post, he beat a taller defender in the air and should have earned a corner, specialist Celtic wing-back, but the referee mistakenly

joining in. For the second day even though many back home gave a goal-kick. There is also in a row the city of Bordeaux felt the Scottish players' playenough devil about him to make it very unpleasant to tackle or be tackled by him. Aggressive to the very limit of the law, without being a dirty player, he is - to use the footballing parlance - "willing to put himself about a bit."

His real talent, however, is to run at the opposition with as much pace and skill as most good wingers. Like one of the few real world-class players Scotland and Celtic have produced over the last 20 years, he shares Danny McGrain's footballing brain and vision. On top of that he scores more goals than his illustrious pre-

For a long time last season the then Celtic manager, Wim Jansen, shared the doubts of many others, but he came to realise the error of his ways, allowing Jackie to become one of the linchpins of Celtic's title success. The players in the Scottish Premier League, however, showed that they never doubted his ability by voting for him

as their player of the year. Craig Brown will start him against Morocco and I believe the team will look more balanced as a result, right from the first minute. This is important as the Scotland team have lost vital early goals already in this tournament due to lack of concentration and defensive confusion: first against Brazil after four minutes and then in the first minute of the second half

against Norway. I hope that I am not just losing the power of detached realism, that so many other Scottish fans have lost so famously before me. After all, one point from six so far isn't, on the face of it, wonderful and we have only ever won four games in the World Cup finals to date. However, it looks probable that a win against Morocco will be enough for qualification to the next phase, I believe it can and will be done, despite everything that history and statistics tell us.

Do match-making.

And get paid for it.

D



Calderwood's timely return to duty

By Phil Shaw

WITH THE unhappy exception of Faustino Asprilla, Colin Calderwood looks like emerging from the group stages with more air miles to his name than

any other player. On Wednesday the Tottenham defender flew out of the Scottish HQ - and the tournament - to have surgery on his injured hand in London. By tonight he will be back, harbouring hopes of playing in the second phase should Scotland

Calderwood fell heavily early in the second half of Tuesday's 1-1 draw with Norway in Bordeaux. The seriousness of the Scotland have their sights set was only their fourth in six visdamage was immediately ap- on facing Italy in Marseilles.

parent to him because two of his The likelihood is that Calderfingers were bent at right angles to the others. He was substituted and returned home, passing his wife and children at Heathrow as they left for a holiday and leaving Craig Brown resigned to losing him.

Now, however, the specialist who performed the operation has indicated to the Scotland medical staff that Calderwood might be able to rejoin the campaign after Tuesday's crucial Group A match against Morocco in St Etienne.

Alex Milier, the Aberdeen manager and assistant to Brown, spoke of the "possibility" of his resuming active service a week today, when

wood would have to wear a light plaster cast, provided it was sanctioned by Fifa.

"It would be a great boost," Miller said. "Colin's a very good defender and an important part of our organisation at the back. He was desperate to continue. Now he's had the bones in his hand wired up and protected by a bandage, though he'd need to start training at the beginning of next week to be in contention for any second-phase match."

The Scots are taking care not to sound as if they are taking victory over Morocco for granted. Rightly so: they have not won in the finals since 1990 and that success, against Sweden, its to the tournament.

knowing that they will progress if they win, and have improved their ability to cope with the physical side of the north European game. Frank Coulston, the former Partick Thistie player who assesses opponents for Brown, was impressed by them even in the 3-0 beating by Brazil "They're a good side and didn't lose their shape or discipline after going three goals down," Coulston said. "We won't underestimate them at all, although we think we know

Morocco go into the match

hind the front players. It's unlikely they'll change.' Miller, who has joined Brown in studying video footage of Benzekri, "would be disap-

how they will play. It's basical-

ly a 4-3-1-2 formation, with

Moustafa Hadji as the one be-

the Moroccans, endorsed his colleague's warning. "They counter-attack in numbers, sometimes five or six guys at a

time, and at high speed." Hadji, who has been playing with pain-killing injections in a toe injury, may present Scotland with an unusual dilemma, Miller noted. The Deportivo La Coruna player does not operate just off the strikers in a central area in a manner which might necessitate man-marking. He is just as likely to ma-

terialise on either wing. By contrast, it has been mooted that Scotland will be seeking to exploit Morocco's goalkeeping problems. Miller remarked diplomatically that the current incumbent, Driss



Calderwood: Bones wired

pointed with the goals he lost against Norway," but was reluctant to tempt fate further. "We never tell the players that a keeper is the weakness. If we did nothing's more certain than that he'd have a brilliant game against us."

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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

Nigeria 1 Bulgaria 0

GROUP D: PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS, ATTENDANCE: 48,500 Goal: ikpeba 27 **Yellow cards:** 4 (Adepoju, Okechukwa, Ikpeba, Okocha). Red cards: 0

Offside: 1 Free-kicks (against): 9 Coach: Bora Milutinovic

Corners: 7

Yellow cards: 2 (Iliev, Kishishev) Red cards: 0 Corners: 9 Offside: 4 Free-kicks (against): 18

Coach: Hristo Bones

Running commentary

1 min: Trifon Ivanov begins typically by clat- 48 min: Yellow card Ikpeba (push on Ginchev, tering into Okocha.

7 min: Oliseh drives arrow straight free-kick narrowly wide. 13 min: Stoichkov hits shot to 'keeper.

17 min: lkpeba allowed header. Wastes it. 19.min: Yellow card Adepoju (none too bruising contact on Hristov's ankle).

27 min: Amokachi again takes full part in fine less tackle). build-up ending with Ikpeba slotting in goal. 28 min: Ikpeba, confidence high, shaves post. 30 min: Bulgaria under permanent pressure. 33 min: Kostadinov finds space but loses sight

38 min: Bulgarian defence pulled apart. lkpeba finishes with strong shot – Zdravkov holds. 40 min: Stoichkov gets shot on target. Keeper grips well.

41 min: Balakov lifts ball over keeper. Ball bounces tantalisingly beyond far post. 42 min: Yellow card Okechukwu (ill-disciplined challenge).

who falls dramatically).

50 min: Bulgaria, with Borimirov on for Hristov, make improved progress.

64 min: Yellow card Iliev (foul on George). 65 min: Stoichkov misses virtually open goal but Bulgaria attacking more consistently. 71 mln: Yellow card Okocha (seemingly harm-

73 min: Balakov curls free-kick wide. 74 min: Substitute Kanu's first time, first shot pushed round for corner.

78 min: Yellow card Kishishev (bringing down 80 min: Nigeria getting increasingly careless

in defence. George spurns fine chance in front

86 min: Kostadinov hits crossbar with shot. 89 min: Yekini forces late corner. Bulgaria get back on attack.

90 min: Bulgarian corner. Nigeria survive to qualify with a game to spare.

THURSDAY'S LATE MATCH

France 4 Saudi Arabia 0

GROUP C: STADE DE FRANCE, ST DENIS, PARIS, ATTENDANCE: 75,000

Goal: Henry 35, 76, Trezeguet 67, Lizarazu 84 Yellow cards: 2 (Blanc, Lizarazu). Red cards: 1 (Zidane)

Corners: 3 Offside: 2 Free-kicks (against): 12 Coach: Aimé Jacquet

Free-kicks (against): 13 Coach: Carlos Alberto Parreira

Yellow cards: 2 (Al-Jahni, Al-Jaber)

Red cards: 1 (Al-Khlaiwi)

Corners: 3

Offside: 1

Running commentary

1 min: Zidane has two shots blocked. 5 min: Dugarry slips inventive pass forward. No-one else thinks as quickly.

edge of area).

by Zidane but volleys wildly. harmiess tackle on Lizarazu):

28 min: Dugarry stretches – pulls hamstring.

30 min: Trézéguet again in front of goal. Al- 69 min: Red card Zidane (stamping on Anwar) or, stretching.

1834 min: Yellow card Blanc (unruly challenge keeper. Runs on and slides ball into net.

35 min: Henry taps in to give France lead af- schamps).

50 min: Trézéguet, in front of goal, fails to

knock in. 51 min: Yellow card Lizarazu (foul, Al-Jaber). 6 min: Yellow card Al-Jahni (foul on Diomêde, 55 min: Zidane drifts inside. Bends dangerous shot that 'keeper holds confidently.

12 min: Henry follows up high, clever pass 57 min: Trézéguet gets yet another chance. Chests ball down and sends half-volley over. 18 min: Réd card Al-Khilaiwi (lunging but 62 min: Trézéguet challenges 'keeper in air. Opportunity lost.

67 min: Thuram repeats his excursion. This 29 min: Trézéguet comes on. First touch, al- time his centre eludes fingers of 'keeper. Trézéguet heads in.

76 min: Henry chases long clearance from 80 min: Yellow card Al-Jaber (kick on De-

ter Trézéguet sets them up. Lizarazu's ball across. 84 min: Delightful build-up to French fourth 36 min: Three French players fail to meet invit- ends with back-heel by Djorkaeff to Lizarazu who nonchalantly finishes move.

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Germany v Yugoslavia Lens Argentina v Jamaica

Paris United States v Iran Kick-off: 13.30 TV: BBC1 Kick-off: 16.30 TV: ITV Kick-off: 20.00 TV: BBC1

GOALSCORERS

THREE GOALS

TWO GOALS GROUP G: Luis Hernandez (Mexico). ONE GOAL

Group A: Bebeto (Brazil): Cesar Sam-palo (Brazil): Rivaldo (Brazil): Ronaldo (Brazil): John Collins (Scotland): Craig (Brazil): John Collins (Scotland): Craig urley (Scotland): Dan Eggen (Norway) lanard Flo (Norway): Moustafa Hadil Morocco): Abdel#III Hadda (Morocco).

GROUP B: Roberto Baggio (Italy): Luigi Di Baggio (Italy): Pierre Njanka (Cameroon): Runi Poister (Austria): Inica

Nielsen (Denmark): Christophe Dury (France): David Trézéguet (Fra

GROUP D: Fernando Hierro (Spain): Raul (Spain): Mutic Adopoju (Nigeria): Garbe Lawal (Nigeria): Sunday Olisek (Nigeria): Victor Ikpeba (Nigeria) GROUP E: Ha Seok-ju (South Korea): Ricardo Pelaez (Mexico).

GROUP F:Järsen Klinsmann (G many):Andreas Möller (Gerr Isa Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia). GROUP G: Alan Shearer (Eng

GROUP H: Mario Stanic (Croatia): Robert Prosinecki (Croatia): Davor Robert Prosinecki (Croacia): Davor Suker (Croacia): Robbie Earle (Jamaica):

OWN GOALS Tommy Boyd (Scotland); Youssef Chip-po (Morocco): Pierre Issa (South Africa).

WORLD CUP BETTING

COMFORTABLE WINNERS of their opening game against Jamaica, Croatia will not find life as easy against Japan in Nantes this afternoon but are still fancied to emerge victorious (perhaps 2-1).

Despite a few injuries in the run-up to the tournament, who ground out a 0-0 draw Croatia still looked a pretty solid outfit against the West indian side and should just edge out Japan, plucky 1-0 losers to Argentina in their first match. - looks the best bet to score Overmars to cause South Davor Suker looks the best bet the opening goal in what Korea no end of problems. or first goalscorer.

_					
JAPA	Nν	ÇR	OA	ΓIA	
	٠.	Н	Ł	5	
,	1-3	411	4-11	2-5	4-11
	3-1	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4
	7-1	7-1	7-1	6-1	7-1

ΠA	BELGIU
'''s T	Station .
25 41	Beighat See
114 114	Draw 2-
41 74	Mexico 12-

The match between Belgium and Mexico in Bordeaux looks booked for a draw (maybe

moderate South Korea in their first game but will not find life with the mighty Netherlands in their first game.

Mexico's Luis Hernandez promises to be a close game.

promise					
BEL	SIUM	V	MEX	ICO	•
Maries.	C	H	L	S	
Belghati	Sees 1				
Draw	2-1	2-1	15-8	2-1	2-1
Mexico	12-5	5-2	13-5	5-7	12-5

The Netherlands should hammer South Korea (maybe 4-0) in Marseilles this evening. The Dutch were frankly a bit dis-Mexico put three past the appointing against Belgium in their first match but, on that evidence, seem unlikely to miss so easy against a dour Belgium, Patrick Kluivert and will be helped by having Dennis Bergkamp - best bet for first goalscorer - starting the match.

He should combine with who got two in their first game his Arsenal team-mate Marc

ı	NETHER	LAN	DS 1	V S	KOR	ŒΑ
	Marion	c	ä	_1	S	<u>T</u>
٠.	Necher lands	2.9	1-5	1-5	1.5	1-5
	Dynam	7-2	41	44	41	4-1
	S North	11-1	10-1	10-1	10-i	11-1

SPREAD BETTING

IF THE Netherlands are confirm the pre-tournament whispers to set the seeds on their way. they must do it tonight with the

irmed many a prejudice in evitable they could end up with disappearing after being kicked a negative number. of true international class so it's - Sporting quote 6.8-7.6 - may

up to the returning Bergkamp

Buy the Dutch supremacy Group E whipping boys. South and take a look at South Korea, providing the opposition. Korea's Performance num-Their goalless draw against bers. They are unlikely to keep Belgium was less than heart- a clean sheet, or score, and ging as Marc Overmars con- with bookings seemingly in-

Floyd Hasselbaink showed a lack ment goals for the Netherlands matically tomorrow.

prove on the low side come

Who isn't looking forward to Iran's collision with The Great Satan, a.k.a. the USA? Iran conceded 29 free-kicks against Yugoslavia yet managed not to receive a card of any colour. Fifa's Instructions to referees are changing daily and that A buy on the total tourna- clean record could change dra-

Richard Wetherell

TODAY'S MATCHES

Japan v Croatia

MANAMI SOMA SOLDO KAWAGUCHI AKITA NAKAYAMA NAKANISHI

PROBABLE TEAMS REFERE: R RHAMDAN (TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)
TV: LIVE: ITV 1.10. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 10.50 **WEATHER:** Clear, with a chance of scattered clouds later. Temperature: 27C

	-
1 Nobuyuki KojimaBellmare Hiratsuka	
2 Akira NarahashiKashima Antiers	
3 Naoki Soma Kashima Antiers	
4 Masami Ihara Yokohama Marinos	
5 Norto Omura Vokohama Marinos	
6 Motohiro YamaguchiYokohama Flugels	
7 Teruyoshi itoShimizu S-Pulse	
8 Hidetoshi NakataBelimare Hiratsuka	
9 Masashi Nakayama Jubilo lwata	
10 Hiroshi Nanami Jubilo Iwata	
11 Shanji Ono Urawa Red Diamonds	
12 Wagner Lones Relimans Hiraturka	

deputise. 19 Eisuke NakanishiJef Utd ichihara 20 Yoshlkatsu Kawaguchi ..Yokohama M 21 Selgo Narazaki.....Yokohama Fiugels 22 Takashi Hirano..Nagoya Grampus Eight

TEAM NEWS

JAPAN: No injury worrie and likely to be unchanged. CROATIA: The captain, Zvon imir Boban, strained a cal muscle in training earlier this week and will almost certain! miss today's match, in which case Krunoslav Jurcic wi

	2 Petar Krpan	Osiie
	3 Anthony Seric	Haiduk Sci
_	4 Igor Somac	Derby Count
5	5 Goran Juric	Croatus Zagre
_	6 Slaven Bike	Everto
-	7 Aljosa Asanovic	Nano
-	8 Robert Prosineckl	Croatia Zagre
f	9 Davor Suker	Baal Made
ш	10 Zvonimir Boban .	Mils
S	11 Silvio Maric	Croaria Zagrei
-	12 Marjan Mrmic	Reciles
y	13 Mario Stanic	Dan
h	14 Zvonimir Soldo	
-		
II	15 Igor Tudor	14 Jank 201
-	16 Ardian Kozniku	Basti
	17 Robert Jami,	
7		
Ĭ.	19 Goran Vlaovic	valenci
_	20 Dario Simic	Croatia Zagre
	21 Krunoslav Jurcic	Croatia Zagre
	22 Vladimir VəsiğHr.	ratski Dragovolja
	Coach: Miroslav Blazes	AC .

Belgium v Mexico

]	GROU	P E: PARC LE	SCURE, BO	ORDEAUX. KI	CK-OFF: 16.30 BS	
	BORKELM	ANS BOFFIN	• • •	ORDL	ALES C SANCI	nez
	AlboAic	SCIFO	Nilis	LUNA	ISPE DAVIN	Ю
DE WILDE		WILMOTS		HERNANDEZ	RAMIREZ PA	CAMPOS RDO -
31	AELANS VAN	I DER ELST	XLIVEIRA	BLANCO	LARA	
DEFL	ANDRE		PROB. TEA	ABLE MS		
WEATHER: C Temperature:	lear and sun 36C	ny.		TV: UVE: (REFEREE: H DAL 38C1 4.15, HIGHLIG	LAS (SCOTLAND) HTS: BBC1 10.50

TEAM NEWS BELGIUM: Enzo Scifo will play.

Franky van der Elst is a doubt (groin). Defender Gordan Vidovic is recalled after injury. MEXICO: Will start with the three-man attack that finished the defeat of South Korea.

Medico City, friendly); Medico 1 0. 16 Apr 1969 (Brussels, 1: Belgium 2 Medico 0.

1 Jorge CamposUNAM 2 Claudio Suarez SanchezGuadalajara
2 Claudio Suarez Sanchez Guadalaiera
3 Joel SanchezGuadalajara
4 German VillaAmerica
5 Duillo DavinoAmerica
6 Marcelino Bernal Monterrey
7 Jesus RamirezGuadalajara
8 Alberto Garcia AspeAmerica
9 Ricardo PelaezAmerica
10 Luis GarciaAriante
11 Cuauhtemoc BlancoNecaxa
12 Oswaldo SanchezAmerica
13 Pavel PardoArlas
14 Raul LaraAmerica
15 Luis HernandezNecaxa
16 Isaac TerrazasAmerica
17 Francisco PalenciaCruz Azui
18 Salvador CarmonaToluca
19 Braulio LunaUNAM
20 Jaime OrdialesToluca
21 Jesus ArelianoGuadalaiara
22 Oscar PerezCruz Azul
ZZ UKAT FEIEZUZ AZUI

Netherlands v S Korea

NUMAN OVERMARS YOO SANG-CHUL KIM TAE-YOUNG DO-KEUN VAN DER SAR COCH LEE SANG-YOON NOH JUNG-YOON LEE MIN-SUNG R DE BOER KIM DO-HOON ZENDEN

WINTER JANG HYUNG-SEOK PROBABLE REFEREE: R WOJCIK (POLAND)
TW. LIVE: ITV 7:45. HIGHLIGHTS: BBC1 10.50 WEATHER: Clear and sunny

, ·
1 Edwin Van der SarAjax
2 Michael ReizigerBarcelona 3 Jaap StamPSV Eindhoven
2 Jaan Stam PSV Findhouen
4 Frank De Boer
5 Artur NumanPSV Eindhoven
S Mary Land
6 Wirm JonkPSV Eindhoven
7 Ronald De BoerAjax
8 Dennis BergkampArsenal
9 Patrick KlulvertMilan
10 Clarence SeedorfReal Madnd
11 Philip Cocu,PSV Eindhoven
12 Boudewijn ZendenPSV Eindhoven
13 Andre CoijerPSV Eindhoven
14 Marc OvermarsArsenal
15 Winston BogardeBarcelona
16 Edgar DavidsJuventus
17 Pierre Van Hoolidonk "Nottm Forest
18 Ed Do Goes Chelsen
18 Ed De GoeyChelsea 19 Giovanni Van BronckhorstFeyenoord
20 Aron Winter:Internazionale
21 Jimmy Floyd HasselbainkLeeds
21 Jimmy Ployu Hasseldalim
22 Ruse HespBarcelona

TEAM NEWS NETHERLANDS: Dennis Bergkamp is fit to start his first match in seven weeks, possibly partnered by Ronald de Boer rather than Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Patrick Kluivert is suspended for two matches. Pierre van Hooi-

idonk may be involved at some stage in the game. SOUTH KOREA: Ha Seok-ju is suspended. No injury womes.

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RED AND YELLOW CARDS

Sand Al-Jaber (S Arabia) v Fr

lebe (South Africa) v Den

Group D Nilguel Benitez (Paraguay) v Bul Anatoli Naskov (Bulgaria) v Par Hristo Stokhkov (Bulgaria) v Par

RED CARDS

Group C
Alfred Phiri (South Africa) v Den (misses next three motches); Militios Biolinar (Denmark) v SA (misses next two motches); Mortess Wileghorsto (Denmark) v SAfrica (misses next motch); Zisaedine Zisa bia) v France (misses next match)
Group E
Ha Seok-ju (South Korea) v Mex (misses next match); Patrick Kinivert (Nether

Group D oli Nankov (Bulgaria) v Par (miss-YELLOW CARDS Group A
Casar Sampalo (2) (Brazil) v Sco: v Mor
(misses next motch)
Aldair (Brazil) v Sco
Junior Balano (Brazil) v Mor
Darren Jackson (2) (Scotland) v Bra; v Mor
(misses next motch)
Genden Durin (Scotland) v Mor

po Dorle (Scotland) v Mo Said Chibe (Monocco) v Bra
Kjetil Reisdal (Norway) v Sco
Hessning Berg (Norway) v Sco
Group B Augelo Di Linio (Italy) v Chile Alescandro Costacurta (Italy)

Marcelo Seliai (Chile) v Aut
Isan Zamorano (Chile) v Aut
Samoral Ipoca (Cameroon) v Aut
Plerro Njanka (Cameroon) v It
Plerro Njanka (Cameroon) v It
Didler Angibaand (Cameroon) v It
Rigobert Song (Cameroon) v It
Aston Pfeffer (Austria) v Can
Peter Schötnel (Austria) v Chile
Horten Mieghoust (Den) v S Arabia (also
has a red cord, misse men manch)
Narri Rieper (Den) v S Arabia
Ajjan Nilatson (Den) v S Arabia
Ajjan Nilatson (Den) v S Arabia
Nilatson Schjonberg (Den) v S Arica Augustine Oloschii (Nigeria) v Bul Group E
Jaime Ordiales (Meri v S Korea
Alberto Garcia Aspe (Meri v S Korea
Alberto Garcia Aspe (Meri v S Korea
Lorenzo Staulens (Belgium) v Neth
Eric Dafiandra (Belgium) v Neth
Group F
Zeljico Petrovic (Nigoslavia) v Iran
Dragan Stojicovic (Nigoslavia) v Iran
Jens Jeremies (Germany) v USA
Dietmar Hannann (Germany) v USA
Jiorg Hafurich (Germany) v USA
Frankle Hejdus (USA) v Ger
Group G
Sol Campbell (England) v Tun
Jose Clayene (Iunisia) v Eng
Innad Ben Vennes (Rinkis) v Eng
Innad Ben Vennes (Rinkis) v Eng
Jose Sauta (Colombia) v Rom
Iulian Filipencu (Romania) v Col
Dorinel Mentenna (Romania) v Col
Dorinel Mentenna (Romania) v Col
Group H
Mascand Inna: (Japan) v Arg
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Sand Al-Jaber (5 Arabia) v Fr Emmanuel Path (France) v S Africa Didder Deschamps (France) v S Africa Zinedlae Zidava (France) v S Africa (also has o red cont, missis ment motch) Laurent Blace (France) v S Arabia Blaente Lizarraza (France) v S Arabia Hilliam Jackson (South Africa) v Fr Dunid Nyathi (South Africa) v Den Fierre Issa (South Africa) v Den Lucas Radebe (South Africa) v Den

ami Ihara (Japan) v Arg do: Nakanishi (Japan) v Arg

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE Group A Brazil 2 Scotland 1 (St Denis) Morocco 2 Norway 2 (Montpellier) Scotland 1 Norway 1 (Bordeaux) Brazil 3 Morocco 0 (Nanres) Scotland v Morocco (St Etienne, 20,00) Tue 23 June Brazil v Norway (Marseilles, 20.00) D Pts GD 1 Brazil Ω 2 Normay 3 Scotland

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Group R								
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Tue 23 June	Ital	y v Au	stria			(St-D	enis, 1	5.00)
Tue 23 June	Chi	ie v C	amero	on		(Na	ntes, 1	5.00)
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2 Chile	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	0
3 Austria	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	0
4 Cameroon	2	0	1	1	1	4	1	-3

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Group C

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	Sou	uth Afr	rica 1	(Toulouse					
	France 4 Saudi Arabia 0						(St-Denis		
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Wed 24 June	Sou	South Africa v Saudi Arabia					(Bordeaux, 15.00)		
	P	w	D	L	F	Α	Pts	GD	
1 France	2	2	0	0	7	0	6	+7	
2 Denmark	2	1	٠, ١	0	2	1	4	+1	
3 S Africa	2	0	1	1	1	4	1	-3	
4 S Arabia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0	-5	

Group D

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	Nig	eria 1	Bulga					
	Spa	in v P	aragu	ay			(St Etie	enne
Wed 24 June	Spa	ain v B	ulgari	ā		(1	Lens, 20	0.00
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1 Nigeria	2	2	0	0	4	2	6	+2
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- 1	Today	Вe	lgium 1	v Mexi	ico -	(Borde	eaux, 16	5.30
•	Today	Ne	therlar	ıds v S	5 Kore			illes, 20	
. 1	Thu 25 June	Ne	therlar	nds v i	Mexico	o (S	it Etie	:nne, 1	5.00
╗	Thu 25 June	Вe	lglum '	v Sout	h Kor	ea	(F	Paris, 13	5.00
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	Ge	rmany	2 US	A 0		(Paris			
Tomorrow	Ge	rmany	v Yug	oslavia	1	(Lens, 13.30)			
Tomorrow	US	A v Ira	in -			(Lyons, 20.00)			
Thu 25 June	Ge	rmany	v Iran	l .	(N	(Montpellier, 20.00)			
Thu 25 June	US	A v Yu	goslav	ria		(Nantes, 20.00)			
	P	w	D	Ł	F	A	Pts	GD	
1 Germany	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	+2	
2 Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	+1	
3 Iran	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	-1	
4 USA	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	-2	

ı	Group G								
.1	ļ <u></u>	En	gland :	2 Tuni	sia O			(Marse	illes)
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ł	Mon 22 June	Co	lombia	v Tun	isia	(N	lontpe	ellier, 1	6.30)
1	Mon 22 June	Ro	mania	v Eng	land		(Tould	ouse, 20	D.00)
٠Į	Fri 26 June	Ro	mania	v Tuni	isla		(St D	enis, 20	0.00)
ı	Fri 26 June	Co	lombia	v Eng	gland		(L	.ens. 20	0.00
ı	t	P	w	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1	1 England	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	+2
1	2 Romania	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	+1
·	3 Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	-1
1	& Tunkta	1	Λ	n	7	n	7	Ω	-2

Group H

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١	ļ	Jan	naica 1	l Croa	da 3			(Lens	
1	Today	Japan v Croatia					(Nantes, 13.30			
ı	Tomorrow	Argentina v Jamaica				(Paris, 16.30 (Bordeaux, 15.00				
•	Fri 26 June	Argentina v Croatia								
;	Fri 26 June	Japan v Jamaica				(Lyon, 15.00				
1	·	P	w	D	L	F	A	Pts	GE	
	1 Croatia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	+2	
!	2 Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	+1	
	3 Japan		0	0	1	0	1	0	-1	
	4 Jamalca		0	0	1	1	3	0	-2	

THE top two teams in each group qualify for the sec-ond round. Qualification decided by (in order): Points, goal dif-ference, number of goals scored, outcome of encounter between two sides, drawing lots. (If Scotland draw 1-1 with Morocco and Norway lose 1-0 to Brazil, Scotland and Norway will tie on points. goal difference and goals scored. Their game was also a 1-1 draw and qualification will be decided by lots).

Second round

ı	Second round	
	Sat 27 June Winner B v Runner-up A	(Marseilles, 15.30
	Sat 27 June Brazil v Runner-up B	(Paris, 20.00
	Sun 28 June Winner C v Runner-up D	(Lens, 15.30
	Sun 28 June Winner D v Runner-up C	(St Denis, 20.00
	Mon 29 June Winner F v Runner-up E	(Montpellier, 15.30
	Mon 29 June Winner E v Runner-up F	(Toulouse, 20.00
	Tue 30 June Winner G v Runner-up H	(Bordeaux, 15.30
	Tue 30 June Winner H v Runner-up G	(St Etienne, 20.00
	•	• *

Quarter-finals

Fri 3 July Marseilles winner v Lens winner (St-Denis, 15.30) Fri 3 July Paris v St Denis winner (Nantes, 20.00) Sat 4 July Toulouse winner v St Etienne winner (Marseilles, 15.30) Sat 4 July Montpellier winner v Bordeaux winner (Lyons, 20.00)

Semi-finals

Tue 7 July Nantes winner v Marseilles winner (Marseilles, 20.00) Wed 8 July Paris St Denis winner v Lyons winner (St Denis, 20.00)

Third place play-off

Saturday 11 July

Sunday 12 July

Final

(St Denis, 20.00)

(Paris, 20.00)



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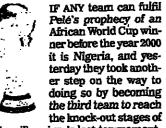
INCE INSPIRES WITH FIRE P28 • GOLDEN DAYS OF BUDGE P22

Nigeria invigorated by Ikpeba

By Glenn Moore at Parc des Princes, Paris

Nigeria ikpeba 27 Bulgaria

- Art: 48.500



this millennium's last tournament. The highlight of a sultry afternoon was a sublime goal by Victor Ikpeba. Africa's player of the year, but Nigeria will also remember a shot against their own bar six minutes from time by Emil Kostadinov.

Had he scored they would still be scrambling to escape from Group D. As it is, they can look forward to a second-round tie, probably against Denmark at the Stade de France a week tomorrow.

This was a match which encapsulated the ethos of the World Cup. Neither Nigeria nor Bulgaria, for economic and geographic reasons, required tickets on the scale Engwas a near-full house drawn from across the football world. Outside people wearing shirts from Argentina, Japan and Brazil had mingled with those of Spain, France and Denmark, inside were draped flags from Germany, Romania and Luton

The international flavour was reflected on the pitch, with only four players employed in their native countries. Eight, five Bulgarians and three Nigerians, play in Turkey, an indication of the rising wealth of the Turkish game even if the national team failed to qualify.

The neutrals supported Nigeria. partly because of their fresh football, partly because of their effervescent supporters, and mainly because, on this ground five years ago, Bulgaria knocked France out of the 1994 World Cup with a dramatic lastminute goal. The scorer, Kostadinov.

was constantly booed. Nigeria had brought in Daniel Amokachi, briefly at Everton, for Mobi Oparaku. This ostensibly gave them a more attacking shape than in the 3-2 win over Spain but, with Augustine Okocha man-marked by Zlatko Yankov, it initially made them more predictable. Bulgaria, who drew 0-0 with Paraguay in their opening game, had made three changes, including the return of Kostadinov.

What they needed, however, was an injection of youth. Under a hot Parisian sun Bulgaria looked a spent force against Nigeria's tyros. England, watching on television in Brittany, will have been pleased, Bulgaria are in the same Euro 2000 qualifying group.

stagnated but then the West and stretch the East Europeans, from Celestine Babayaro's cross.

booking Mutiu Adepoju there was joy unconfined when, after 28 minutes,

Ikpeba rolled another shot wide a minute later and put a volley over but Bulgaria roused themselves to finish the half strongly with Krassimir Balakov prominent. First, he land and Scotland wanted yet there chipped narrowly wide after some which cost the defender his second

Bulgaria, conscious that the Mer-

Bulgaria also won a number of free-kicks and while they came to naught, Bora Mulitinovic sought to revive his team by bringing on, in turn, Nwankwo Kanu, to a rousing reception, Rashidi Yekini and Tijani

Initially, only the tally of bookings rose - it reached six by the end - but

It took just four minutes for Finidi George to bring a save from Zdravko Zdravkov. Taribo West then put a free header over the bar and Bulgaria, twice warned, retreated into defence. For 15 minutes the game Africans began to solve the puzzle with Ikpeba heading narrowly wide

mied to shoot, then slipped a pass to Amokachi. Two touches later Nigeria were ahead. The first, with the outside of Amokachi's boot, ond poked the ball under Zdravkov, Trifon Ivanov having first been left floundering by Ikpeba's glorious

delightful ball-skills. Then he induced a foul by Uche Okechukwu successive booking. He will be suspended for the Paraguay match.

cury was pushing 80 degrees Fahrenheit, sought to slow the game down in the second half and the Nigerians, with some self-indulgent play, let them. This enabled Bulgaria to come more into the game and Hristo Stoichkov almost equalised after 66 minutes when he diverted Kostadi-

As Bulgaria courted further unpopularity when Marian Hristov conned the Chilean referee into

Babayaro, advancing on the left, found Okocha in rare space. He dumered the ball to Ikpeba. The sec-

nov's cross-shot wide of the post.

Kanu, George, Garba Lawal and Yekini all went close as Nigeria looked to settle the match. Yet it was Bulgaria who came nearest to scoring when Kostadinov turned Adepoju on the left before rasping a shot against the bar.



Victor Ikpeba (right) celebrates his winning goal for Nigeria with Finidi George and Uche Okechukwu yesterday

Platini unhappy at cards dealt

BY RUPERT METCALF

FIFA, WORLD football's ruling body, was yesterday struggling to cope with the controversy that was raging following Thursday's record haul of red cards.

The tally of five dismissals in two matches - three in Denmark v South Africa (a World Cup record) and then two in France v Saudi Arabia - was the direct result of an intervention by Fifa's new president, Sepp Blatter. Earlier in the week, he had twice declared that referees had been too lenient in the tournament so far and been ignoring instructions to be tough on tackles from behind.

Yesterday though, there seemed to be a split in the ranks over Thursday's carnage. Blatter was backing the two card-happy referees - but Michel Platini, the co-president of the World Cup organising commit-

tee, felt that they had gone too far. "One moment they don't hand out enough cards, and the next they hand out too many. The referees need to be a bit more careful," Platini said. That was in contrast to Blat-

ter's response to events. "I am happy that they heard and understood my message," Blatter said. "Thursday's referees did their job properly. Certain players had gone too far in the early matches. I think they have got the message

Zinedine Zidane, the French playmaker who was dismissed for stamping on a Saudi opponent, yesterday had his one-game ban increased to two matches by Fifa's disciplinary committee. He fared better than Alfred Phiri, though, The South African, harshly sent off for flailing his arms in a collision with a Danish opponent, has been

banned for three matches. Miklos Molnar, one of two Danes sent off against South Africa, is suspended for two games. The other, Morten Wieghorst, received the standard one-match suspension.

The England coach, Glenn Hoddle, yesterday urged a return to the "common sense" he felt had been displayed by officials in the first week of the tournament.

"I thought in the first games that the balance was right," Hoddle said. "There might ve been a couple of isolated incidents where there could have been red cards, but all in all it wasn't too bad.

"We said coming into the tournament that the first five days before we played would give us a chance to look at what was going to happen and how they were going to interpret the laws. Now it's almost as if we're starting all over again.

"Obviously it's a concern Sug denly there's been a drastic swins around," Hoddle added, "As long as it's the tackle from behind that's purished, that's fine. We all want that eradicated from the game. But its about it. Suddenly referees are going into other areas where they're looking to give yellow or red cards from other situations.

"There were sendings-off yesterday that didn't warrant it." the England coach said. "It will be a shame if the referees are getting carried away. They shouldn't be dishing out red and yellows left, right and centre just for the sake of it."

TODAY'S MATCHES: JAPAN V CROATIA (1.30): BELGIUM V MEXICO

Rhodes erodes England's advantage with century

BY DEREK PRINGLE at Lord's

South Africa 360; England 40-3

THE BALANCE of power, so delicately poised after a curtailed first day, has shifted ominously away from England. With their cricket positively glowing in the welcome sunshine, South Africa dominated proceedings from start to finish, a late strike by their fast bowlers strengthening a position that owed much to Jonty Rhodes, who scored his second Test century. To have any chance of saving this match, England have to avoid the follow-on, still

a tantalising 121 runs away. With South Africa achieving their highest score at Lord's it was a tough day for England's captain, Alec Stewart. Faced with nasty session against Alian Donald and co at the fag end of a long hot day Stewart found himself marching to the crease at the end of the fourth over following the dismissals of Michael Atherton and the debutant Steve James in the space of three balls. With nine balls of play left, he too

found himself back in the pavilion. Clearly buoyed by the deeds of earlier in the day and with only 13 overs of the day's play remaining. Donald and Shaun Pollock tore in. After a torrid first over James eased himself into Test cricket with a brace of leg-side fours off Pollock. It

England were noss SOUTH AFRICA - First innings ight: 135 for 4) mm, 51 balls, 1 four Boucher c Stewart b Headley 7 mm, 71 balls, 5 fours

nuche). miling: Praser 31-8-78-1 (10-3-28-0, -3-25-0, 2-0-8-0, 9-2-17-1): Cork .1-5-119-6 [nb5] (14-3-53-4, 5-1-12-0, 1-12-0, 7-0-41-1, 1,1-0-1-1); Headley

was to prove misleading and in the

out splicing a lifter to gully for a duck. Moments later, James gloved a short ball from Donald down the legside only to see Mark Boucher bring off a superb diving catch. As if in apology Boucher then dropped Stewart. a miss that was to prove relatively inexpensive after Pollock trapped him lbw with one that kept slightly low. South Africa's powers of recovery

22-2-69-2 (nb2) (3-0-24-0, 7-1-20-0, 6-0-13-0, 6-1-12-2): Balham 15-2-50-1 (3-0-17-0, 9-2-19-1, 3-0-14-0): Croft 9-3-23-0 (5-1-17-0,

4-2-6-0). Progress: Second day: 150: 184 min, 41.1 overs. 200: 248 min, 55.3 overs. Lunch: 224-4 (Cronje 77. Rhodes 91) 63 overs. 250: 329 min, 76.1 overs. New ball: taken after 82 overs at 266-5.300: 392 min, 90 overs. 18a: 302-7 [Boucher 10. Klusener 15] 91 overs. 350: 459 min, 105 overs. Inlings closed: 5.19pm.
Cronje 50: 120 min, 83 balls, 7 fours. Rhodes 50: 103 min. 69 balls, 7 fours, 1 six, 100: 233 min, 166 balls, 13 fours, 1 six, WGLAND- First Innings P James c Boucher b Donald ... A Atherton c Kirsten b Poliock

To bat: G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, M A Eal-ham, D G Cork. R D B Croft, A R C Prases. Umpires: G Sharp and D B Hair (Aus).

are legendary. Since their return to bowler's second over, Atherton was Test cricket in 1992, their middle and late order has continually been called upon to do the emergency plumbing, after the top order has

leaked early wickets. Yesterday, it was Rhodes, who had the tools to staunch the flow, though Cronje too, played his part after the pair added 184 run in 53 overs, a South African record previously set by Johnny Waite and Tony Pithey in

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Johannesburg during the 1964/65

Building on the vital 95 he scored at Edgbaston, Rhodes is enjoying something of a hot streak. Before his recent spell in the wilderness - he has played in just seven of his country's last 22 Tests - his inconsistency with the bat was tolerated. When he scored 40 it was argued, it was really worth 80, his phenomenal fielding and all-round chirpiness making up the shortfall.

A talented hockey player in his youth. Rhodes suddenly began to bet like one, usually with only occasional success. Suddenly, he found himself surplus to requirements, despite apparently having ownership rights to the area around cover point.

However, a few carefully choses words from Barry Richards, and some hard work with the national coach, Bob Woolmer, have cured him of the hockey player's hoick that saw his right hand dominate. Now, both hands stay high through the line of the ball, a transformation that has reaped instant, and for his team, important reward.

Determined to put bat to ball at every opportunity - a sure sign that his confidence is high too - Rhodes middled most of his shots and there were 15 boundaries in his 117. Those he didn't were inevitably turned into cheeky singles, a ploy guaranteed to rile most pace bowlers. With blue skies overhead the

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Jonty Rhodes (left) is congratulated by Shaun Pollock on his century yesterday

sting in the pitch, so apparent on the elegant cover driving, went for anfirst day when England's bowlers, save Dominic Cork, squandered an early advantage, was drawn, After the way Rhodes attacked the ball in less auspicious circumstances the break also played its part. previous day it should have at least

seen a cue for Stewart to defend. Although England bowled better as a unit than they had done on Thursday, Stewart was slow to make Rhodes and, to a lesser extent,

Cronje work hard for their runs. The squeeze was finally applied after lunch and England broke through. Cronje, having constructed much of his innings around some

other and promptly holed out at extra cover for 81. It was a loose shot but the control Mark Ealham and Dean Headley brought after the

An over later Rhodes was fortunate to survive an lbw shout, Headley seaming the ball back sharply up the slope from the Nursery End. The close call behind him, Headley promptly bounced a short ball off his helmet. Four years ago, a similar blow from Devon Malcolm had floored Rhodes, an epileptic, concussing him in the process.

ماذا من ألاصل

There were no such after effects

pulled Ealham for three, the whole of Lord's rose to applaud what may prove to be the most crucial innings of the series. When it ended, on 117 as it had done at Edgbaston via an inside edge off Angus Fraser, no one

was more thankful than his captain. The breakthrough proved illusory, and the tail once again wagged as 77 runs were added for the last three wickets. With one of those falling to Cork, the Derbyshire captain ended the innings with 6 for 119.

Had his colleagues supported him earlier, England might not be facing such an enormous task

WEEKEND REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • SHOPPING • TRAVEL



tisherman's tal

The men and women of Mallaig are no strangers to death. They know the boats that set out daily in search of mackerel may never return. But then the Silvery Sea went down with all hands. And this tiny Scottish community will never be the same

hese should be great days in the Scottish village of Mallaig. Night never seems fall in this most westerly port on mainland Britain. Extraordinary golden sand on its beaches and almost Caribbean clear sea make you wonder if the wind ever blows on this edge of the Highlands. Nearby, the temperate presence of the Gulf Stream allows even palm trees to thrive. Indeed, this noisy port of pebbled-dashed cottages, dwarfed by great outcrops of granite tumbling into the sea, might easily be mistaken as a stopping-off point for tourists bound for Greek islands rather than the Western Isles. Each morning more trippers arrive on the steam train from Fort William, having passed beneath the peak of Ben Nevis en route to the sea.

These are days when the women of Mallaig, as they pack their men off fishing for perhaps a fortnight at a time, should be able to relax and enjoy summertime with their children. The sea appears so unthreatening. Look out at the bay around which the islands of Rum, Skye and Eigg wrap themselves and you can see for miles. So normally the women can set aside for a few months

their usual fears of fierce winter storms and lost loved ones.

It has been a time of celebration. On 12 June, Eigg marked the first anniversary of the day when its 68 islanders bought out their landlord and at last gained a chance to dictate their own destiny. Meanwhile, in Mallaig earlier this month there was the traditional week of partying, with raft races in the harbour, prizes for the best kept boat and a visit from Paul Anderson, the great Aberdeenshire fiddler. The festivities closed with a service of thanksgiving during which this fishing community sang the hymn:
"How good is the God we adore/Our faithful unchangeable friend."

Yet within days they were mourning the greatest tragedy to befall a community that lives in expectation of accidents. On Wednesday evening, 500 of them prayed together at a special service in Mallaig school hall. They should have been watching the final performance of the school play, which had been cancelled. On Sunday morning, five men, four of them from this village

of fewer than 1,000 people, had perished. Their boat sank after a collision, 30 miles off the Danish coast. The Silvery Sec., a 124ft, 265-ton purser, hit the much larger, 4,155-ton German coaster Merkur and sank rapidly, drowning the entire crew. Had it been winter, the disaster might have been easier to un-

derstand, even though each vessel was equipped with sophisticated radar and electronic equipment. But this all happened in

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

broad daylight at 7.15 in the morning. It was possible to see 20 to 30 miles, said the coastguard. You couldn't have hoped for a finer day in June.

The Silvery Sec's skipper was Alexander 'Zander' Manson, perhaps the most respected fisherman in Mallaig. With him was a crew of men in their thirties and forties. All but one of them had been aboard the boat when it was almost dashed on rocks off Larne in Northern Ireland in November 1996. So the North Sea in June did not worry them. And they were delighted with themselves: The Silvery Sea was heading east for a processing plant in Denmark, loaded to the gunwales with a 500-ton catch of sand eels. A trip like that can earn a crewman more than £10,000.

But a boat so heavily laden sinks fast: the sand eels were still alive swimming around in tanks holding thousands of gallons of salt water. The German freighter had reinforced steel bows to cut through ice. The collision was like a Mini hitting an articut lated lorry. Two helicopters were scrambled and seven ships joined the search. They found only empty lifeboats and an oil slick.

Many people got their first word of the disaster while attending Sunday morning services at Mallaig's two churches, one Catholic, the other Protestant. Fr Michael Hutson, the parish priest, broke the news to some in his congregation. "We prayed during 10 o'clock Mass that the men might be found," he recalls. But within hours their hopes had shrunk. The prayer then was that at least the bodies might be retrieved so funerals could be held. Four of the men were married. One had two young children. Their relatives were sprinkled throughout the community. For two days, they waited until the first four were discovered by divers 100ft down in the submerged boat. Then the next of kin made their sad journey to Denmark to identify the dead.

No-one in Mallaig is untouched by this tragedy. Even when reporting the killings in Hungerford of 16 people in 1987, you would meet some in the town largely unaffected by what had happened. Not here. The mood in the pubs on Sunday evening was sombre, says Angus Macintyre, who has lived all his life here and works on a boat crewed by a brother of one of the dead. "Some of the lads were crying into their drinks. It's a terrible blow." These are private people, who have come to loathe the in-

trusiveness of the press. On Monday afternoon, Frances Shand Kydd, Princess Diana's mother and patron of the local fishermans' association, met the bereaved in the village. The visit provoked chaotic scenes among journalists outside. At one point local men discussed turning a hose on them.

The women, in particular, have retreated into their community. "You are always worried when a man goes to sea," explains one woman. "You never want him to go when you have had a row. You have to sort out your row first, in case he doesn't come back. But you don't expect this to happen in fine weather. Nothing on this scale has happened here before. There have been boats going down, losing a couple of men. But not five. Everyone is so shocked. I was speaking to a friend of mine whose husband went to sea on Monday and she says she wants to ring him up every hour to check he is OK. You look out at the bay and think how can anything go wrong on such a nice day. And then you realise

how easy it is for a boat to get its nets snagged and to go under."

The men who died were well known to most people. Zander Manson, 57, the skipper, was the king of fishing in Mallaig. A tall, lanky man, he was owner of the largest boat and head of a family whose name is synonymous with the village. Michael Dyer, 36, left two boys, one aged 14 months, another, Christopher, aged 8, who is nicknamed "the harbour master" because he was already helping around the boats. "Michael and Betty seemed such a happy couple with their lives set up," says one friend. "Now, it's all gone." Michael Dyer's body is the only one not yet found.

In a place like this, no one gos by their Christian name – every

one has a nickname. Alan MacDonald, 31, was known as "Druimdhu", after his family home. He was newly-married and had just built a house. The fourth crew member was Alex "Tucker" Mackenzie, 32, who, said his brother Gordon, "loved the sea and loved his boat. He was a big Aberdeen football club fan and a shareholder in the chib - he really talked about nothing else." The fifth was Billy Tait, 42, from Fraserburgh, a man whose name will ripple through the Scottish fishing industry in which the Taits are a key family.

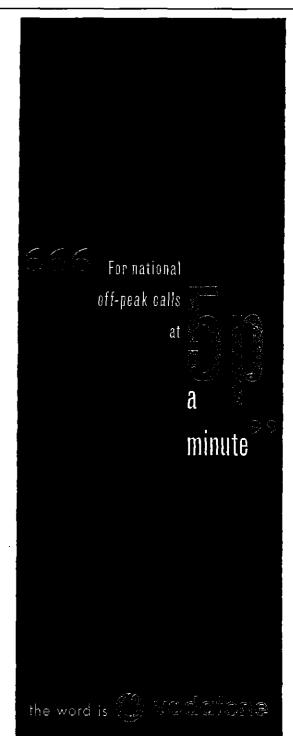
There is grief for all these deaths, but also guilt. The crew was at half-strength because they were fishing sand eels rather than mackerel. "Some of these men live together for a month at a time." explains a Mallaig woman. "So the crew members who are left are devastated. They have lost their boat family."

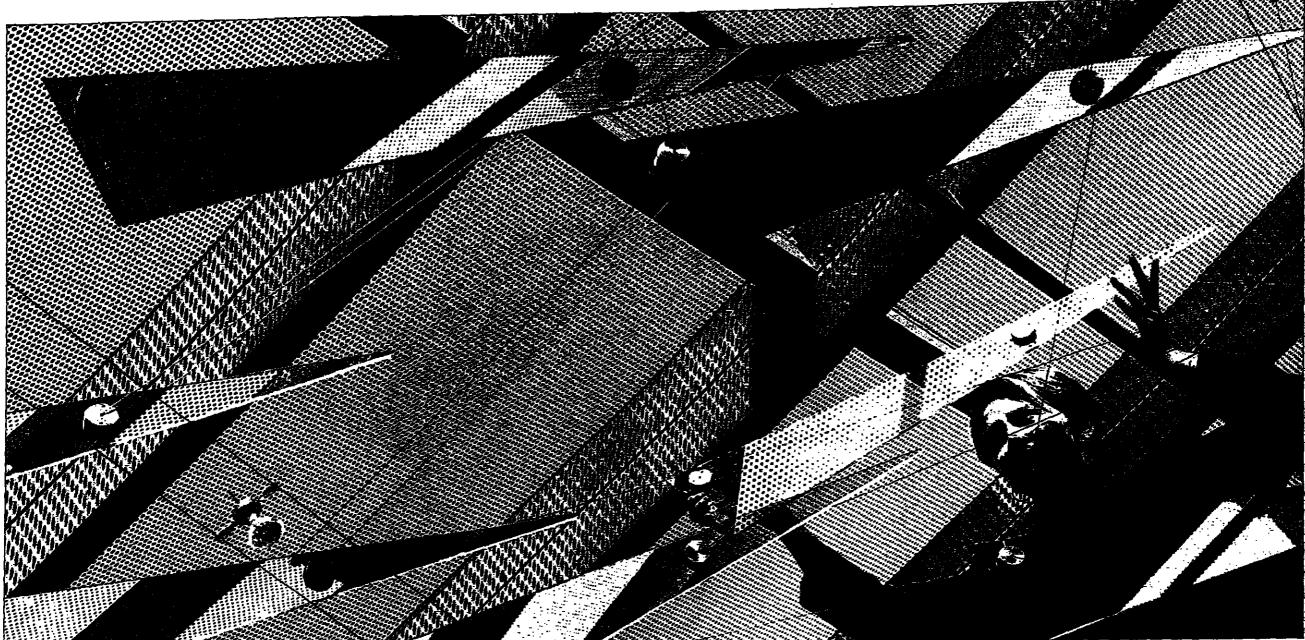
Continued on page two



Features

Outdoors





Artist Laura Johnston putting the finishing touches to a glass installation at the National Glass Centre, which is nearing completion on the banks of the River Wear at Sunderland

Michael Scott/North News & Pictures

Not a cuddly game

Sir. Suzanne Moore blames male culture for, well, everything that isn't nice, but obviously for football hooliganism. Your correspondents seem to blame Paul Gascoigne and tabloid xenophobia for the same thing. In the usual panic-stricken rush to provide answers, the wrong questions are endlessly trotted out. Ban alcohol? Remove passports? Re-educate offenders?

Middle-class handwringing is misplaced. Oh yes, we all know that when we are abroad the host culture is allowed its own integrity those are their ways of doing things, their sensibilities. However, for an urban working-class culture that admires toughness and ... celebrates rivalry no such shifting of context applies. They are proud of their form of Englishness and don't care how provocative that orige may be, t'ogtball becom expression of loyalty (which, in its extreme form, can be loutishness. intolerance and arrogance).

The rest of us feel ashamed of such pride because hooliganism makes us all look barbaric. In fact, it is the upshot of one part of English social history. Now that the middle classes want to cuddle up to football they seem surprised at having to cuddle up to its previous owners at the same time. Football still has some of its roots in an aggressive sense of honour, in meat pies and fizzy beer. Chardonnay, baguettes and internationalism are late starters in the English context. The rest of the world is entitled to be confused. We are not. RSBARRY Wellington, Somerset

Sir: I attended the game on Monday. Travelling to Marseilles on the train there was a wider cross-section of supporters than on previous England trips, with a healthy number of female, black and Asian fans mixing in easily with the traditional white male, everyone determined to have a good time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2036 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

In Marseilles England fans were subjected to oafish and indifferent policing and a violently hostile local Tunisian population. If in . Euro 96 Liverpool and Manchester had been like this it would have been a national disgrace.

I condemn unreservedly the England fans who did cause trouble, but the Orwellian "All foreigners good, all England fans bad" is an attitude your excellent paper should steer clear of. PHIL ASHFORD Slough, Berkshire

SIL. Lucre is son

worrying about England and this World Cup series than the drunken madness, violence and sullied image well analysed by Suzanne Moore ("Forever In-ger-land", 16 June). It is the ease with which the nation has been whipped by entertainment and marketing people into a fervour for the series. for beer, wines chosen for the World Cup, cheese and onion snacks for half-time, suspension of work so that games can be watched, and so on. Streets and shops empty while a match is on. not because everyone is a football fan or even understands the game. but because it is somehow felt obligatory to become, however remotely, part of the action. The same will-sapping accompanied Diana fever and is destined to Swamn us on 1 January 2000 GRAHAM HOLDEN

Sir: If any young man convicted of football hooliganism in France is to be sacked from his job in this country, as the Government apparently recommends, what would they think the appropriate

Budleigh Salterton, Devon

response for any young woman convicted of the manslaughter of a child in the USA? ERIC THOMPSON London NW2

Blame Saddam

Sir. Your article "Baghdad stories" (ISM, 13 June), highlighting the tragic circumstances in which Iraqis are living, was poignant, but it ignores the central facts.

The draqi people have been in a impoverished state, with thousands being killed or maimed, for many years now, because Saddam Hussein forces them into one external or internal war after another.

He has played cat-and-mouse with the UN weapons inspectors for seven years because his aim is to keep some of his weapons of mass destruction intact. During this long period, he deliberately induced the suffering of the Iraqi people as a means of blackmail, to forcethe international community into removing sanctions before the UN managed to trace and destroy all his weapons of mass destruction.

The UN recognised his ploy early on. The first "oil-for-food" resolutions, 706 and 712, were ratified in 1991. Saddam responded by flatly refusing their application.

It was only when the situation inside Iraq deteriorated to the point that it began to affect the higher echelons of his system of government, and to threaten his own survival, that he finally agreed to apply the resolutions.

Saddam Hussein has so far won against the armed resistance of the Iraqi people. Please do not let him win the propaganda war by exploiting the good intentions of people like the writer of your article. CAROLINE HARPER London W12

Too few dentists

Sir: The letter by Mr Hunt (18 June) is timely. With a 12 per cent decrease in the number of applications for places in dental schools, a trend that has been continuing in the UK for some time, the calibre of consultants in dentistry in the NHS will also suffer in years to come.

Dentistry takes up only approximately 5 per cent of NHS expenditure, but the number of working days lost due to dental disease and treatment in the UK is disproportionately high.

Dentistry, unfortunately, does not have a glamorous image – who has ever seen a soap opera about dentists? – and does not have the attraction of medicine. The loss of many gifted young people will have a deadening effect on the profession in the future. It is time that the British Dental Association and other bodies promoted dentistry as an attractive career. NIALL McGUINNESS Consultant Orthodontist Galway, Ireland

Sex and after

Sir: Excuse me! Provide free Viagra on the NHS for the estimated 39 per cent of British males over 40 who may be suffering from impotency (report, 18 June)? I am no expert on the statistics for the number of times that the vast majority of males claim to have sex every week—although it always seems

astonishingly high. But if this proportion of 40-year-olds now appear to be impotent, an awful lot of men must have been telling porkie pies for years.

It would cost the taxpayer nothing if men ceased to feel that the amount of sex they have is a mark of their virility and their worth and started being honest about it, thereby taking the pressure off themselves to perform – and probably ceasing to be impotent to boot!

LIZ REAN

Charlbury, Oxfordshire

Sir: Are you not being a little hard on the police ("Police fail in date rape epidemic". 15 June)? This must be a crime where witnesses would be unusual. taking place in a society highly tolerant of casual sexual intercourse and drunkenness, are increasingly vague, transient and ill-defined. To enforce a law would surely require sexual intercourse to be rape unless the alleged culprit could prove to the contrary.

machines in public places which could provide consent forms in duplicate which could be completed and kept by both parties. The location of the machine could be such that it would also reduce unsafe sexual practice.

A B MURGATROYD

Consultant Physician

Morecombe Bay Hospitals Trust

Cumbria

I would suggest vending

Sir: Donald Reid (letter 16 June) refers to a paper by S Guttmacher and associates showing that, in New York high schools, a programme of sex education and condom promotion had no effect on the amount of sexual activity. He omits to mention that the Guttmacher Institute is a wing of the Planned Parenthood

the Planned Parenthood
Federation of America, hardly an
impartial body. It is also doubtful
whether a study in an American
city is appropriate to Britain,
where no significant research on
this subject has been published.
There may never be conclusive

There may never be conclusive evidence on this controversial matter, not least because most researchers have an axe to grind. What people like Donald Reid need to explain, however, is why the explosion in unwanted pregnancies to teenage girls over many years just happens to coincide with the ever-increasing provision of non-parental sex education and of NHS-subsidised contraception.

ALAN PAVELIN Chislehurst, Kent

Souls in torment

Sir: Catherine Von Ruhland, film critic of the New Christian Herold, admires The Exorcist because, she says, it portrays the "vocation" of the Catholic exorcists as "honourable" ("Holy Ghostbusters", 18 June).

Ms Von Ruhland seems unable to separate fantasy from reality. The exorcist is a work of fiction. Exorcism is a medieval anachronism, and a dangerous one at that. People with common mental illnesses are still being cruelly tormented by those who are convinced that possession by

"evil spirits" is possible.

Despite the Vatican's – and for that matter, the Anglicans' – renewed enthusiasm for exorcism,

كذا من ألاصل

we should not give credence to such preposterous superstitions. Instead, we should educate people to recognise when their friends, family and colleagues are sick and in need of compassionate treatment by fellow human beings. Dehuded men with crosses and holy water can only add further sorrow to an already distressing situation. K PORTEOUS WOOD General Secretary National Secular Society London WC1

IN BRIEF

Sir: If Ann Widdecombe believes that "Christian teaching promotes the traditional family" (You ask the Questions, 17 June), might I suggest that it is time she read her Bible? According to Luke xiv, 26 Jesus, who I believe is supposed to have something to do with Christianity, said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, even his own life, he cannot be a disciple of mine." ROBERT CARD Birmingham

Sir. Might I draw to the attention of Ann Widdecombe the words of Lord Justice Ward, in the Court of Appeal decision Fitzpatrick v Sterling Housing Association (23 July 1997).

"No distinction can sensibly be drawn between [heterosexual and homosexual couples] in terms of love, nurturing, fidelity, durability, emotional and economic interdependence – to name but some and by no means all of the hallmarks of a relationship between husband and wife." ROBERT GODDARD Fifehead Neville, Dorset

Sir: Your leading article (19 June) on circus in the Millennium Dome comments on only one aspect.
Juvenal might ask, "Where is the bread?"
BRYAN BENNETT
London W4

A FISHERMAN'S TALE

Continued from page one Raymond Manson, Zander's brother, was one of the crew not aboard that night. Another surviving member had been discussing with his exwife only the other day the details of his will, should he be lost at sea. Alistair McCombie lived by chance. He had been on holiday in Spain, returning late on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, it was his task to break the news to Ruby Tait, Billy's widow. Mr McCombie's wife said: "Mr Tait only joined the boat at Christmas and it was my husband who got him the job. Can you imag-ine how he is feeling? He got the man the job and then he has to tell his wife he is lost. He is just devastated. I am just grateful that we went on holiday because I still have my husband."

The deaths also preoccupy those who carry on fishing. Charlie Duncan, born and raised in Mallaig, took his 54ft trawler, The Primrose, out on Sunday night after the sinking. He is a large, bullish man, sweat dripping from his forehead as he mends

his nets on the quayside before another night of fishing for prawns. He knows how physically tough fishing is, the dangers, even in calm weather. posed by miles of rope on deck that can catch a man's ankle and send him overboard in a moment. And he knows no-one is certain of a living in a port where boats can be tied up for four months of the winter because of bad weather. His wife is nervous for him: "She tells me to keep myself safe," he says. "Of course, you think about what has happened. I was at school with Zander. But if you kept thinking about it, you would never go to sea."

it, you would never go to sea."

Mr Duncan knows the pressures that the crew of The Silvery Sea would have faced. "In the summer with the daylight you make your money," he says. "So I'm working from 4am till 10.30 at night." In such circumstances, it is not hard to see how a crew member on a boat might have let his attention wander. It's a thought which is the topic of much quiet conversation as people inevitably look for someone to blame.

Chatting on the quayside, you also realise why men may not survive such accidents. Most fishermen, particularly the older ones, feel that if you go overboard far out at sea, noone will reach you in time. So it's best



one will reach you in time. So it's best Mallaig quayside: most of the fishermen are philosophical about the dangers, but even they were shocked at the deaths

not to fight your fate. Charlie Duncan, like many deep sea fishermen, has never learned to swim.

has never learned to swim.

Mallaig people are practical. They know why they are here. Many families arrived for work little more than a century ago, mainly from the east coast fisheries, when the landlord built a pier in a village which was until then only a sheep farm on a rocky outcrop. The coming of steamboats created a way to follow huge shoals of migrating herring. And the new railway from Fort William in

1901 offered a route to market.

Zander Manson was the last of the great herring fisherman. The Silvery Sec was up for sale when Zander died. He planned to retire.

Zander died. He planned to retire.

Poor herring stocks mean that
Mallaig has all but abandoned the
fish that made it, but prawns, white
fish and sand eels are making it rich
again after the lean Eighties. But the
deaths on Sunday will never be for-

In St Patrick's Catholic church, overlooking Mallaig harbour, there is a stained glass window showing a fisherman in trouble being rescued by a God-like, oil-skin clad lifeboat man. After last Sunday's drownings, such a memorial will no doubt remind the faithful that sometimes even God cannot protect against the ravages of the sea.

*THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Give homosexuals full rights, not just equality

MPS ARE certain to vote next week to equalise the age of consent at 16 for homosexual men. In the debate there are only two arguments against this measure that should be given any house room. The first is that the age of consent for everyone, gay men, heterosexuals and lesbians, should be equalised at 18. A minority of young people start having sex too early, which can be damaging, especially to girls. But it would be pointless and unjust to try to change social attitudes using such a blunt instrument. And it would be wrong to criminalise those 16-year-olds who are responsible simply in order to "send a signal" to those who are not.

The second argument for voting No next week which MPs should consider is that of the slippery slope. It is not, in the end, a persuasive argument, but it is worth examining because if the principle of equality is conceded in one area then it follows that it should be recognised in all areas. It was this argument which, to the Government's shame, Baroness Blackstone deployed in the House of Lords earlier this month when she explained why ministers could not accept a Private Member's Bill to outlaw all discrimination against homosexuals. She said the Government supported the intentions of the Bill, but ... "We recognise the central value of the family and marriage." In rejecting the Bill, she had to "tread a careful path between taking account of social reality and at the same time ensuring that we do not undermine the family". The institution of the family is under threat, apparently, because "it might be said that but for their sexual orientation a gay or lesbian couple would have the right to marry". She went on: "This raises serious and important issues." As if their very seriousness and importance should prohibit further discussion. But when she listed what they were, the objections to the measure seemed less rather than more substantial

On pensions, she said that extending survivor's benefits to unmarried couples might be expensive. "In the Civil Service alone the Government estimate that this would cost some £20m a year." Is that all? Meanwhile in the private sector, ending pensions discrimination against homosexuals would involve changing the terms of occupational schemes, and so would apply only to

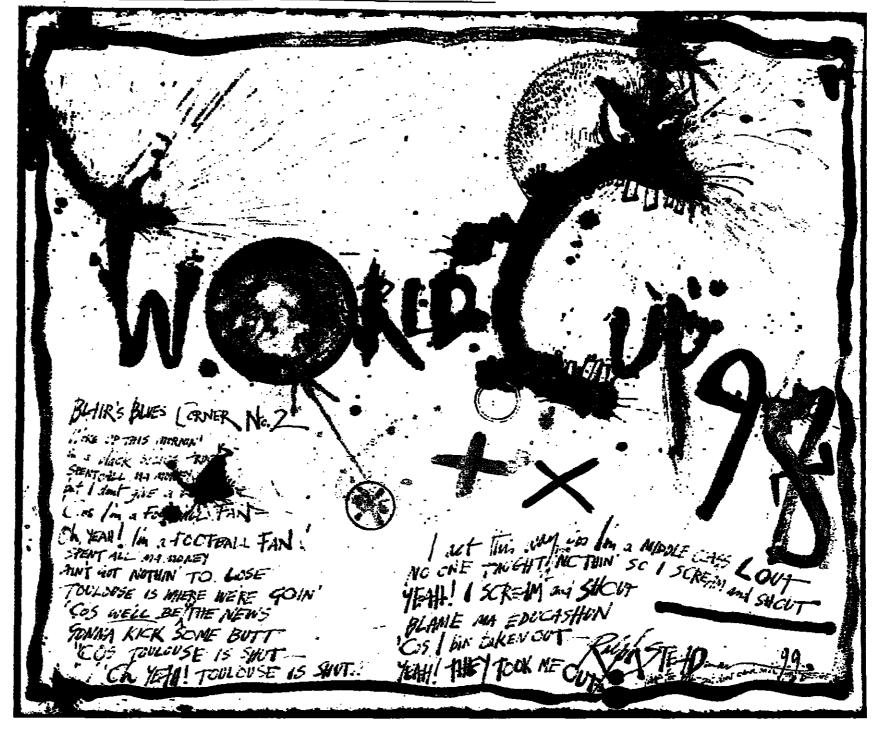
On adoption, she said the present ban on non-married couples jointly adopting a child is "not to be dispensed with lightly". But why? She did not say.

On tenancies she said that the Government "have undertaken to consider" how the law might be amended, "but this must be done carefully". As if the principle of equal treatment were reckless!

Once the teeth-sucking muttering about "unintended consequences" and, even worse, "serious implications" is taken head on, MPs will find that there is nothing to be afraid of in the small print.

As for the ultimate bugaboo of "gay marriage", the Government should, for once, ignore the more excitable sections of the press. The institution of marriage has proved to be a rather crumbly foundation of social cohesion in the hands of heterosexuals, two-fifths of whom decide that it is not after all an "indication of permanence and commitment", - in Lady Blackstone's phrase, explaining why it was so essential that adopters should have tied the knot first.

Fears about the lack of male or female role models for



children brought up by same-sex couples are overdone and, besides, are no business of the legislators. There is no reason in principle why same-sex couples should not be loving and responsible parents, and any presumption against them in adoption, fostering and what used to be called custody cases should be removed from

It is time Britain grew up as a nation and shook off the idea that people should be stigmatised for private consensual sexual behaviour. The Government should be praised for changing the immigration rules to allow same-sex partners to live together, but there are still far too many fields in which gay people are legally disadend unjustifiable discrimination wherever it exists". It is still lawful to sack someone simply for being gay, and unlawful for homosexuals to serve in the armed forces.

MPs should vote to equalise the age of consent, but in the knowledge that it places them under an obligation to ensure that all our citizens enjoy equal rights in

Hedwiredyshefdyelegly hedoodsdort

SUMMER HAS arrived and next week we achieve full sporting saturation, with the start of the Wimbledon Speed-Serving Contest, formerly the Lawn Tennis Championships. Time to pause and reflect, then, on the role played by sport in the moral education of our young people. It is not attractive to see eight-year-olds swearing and spitting like professional footballers, or 10-yearolds indulging in what is now known as racquet abuse. vantaged despite Labour's manifesto pledge to "seek to Playground kickabouts now frequently feature the socalled professional foul, not to mention the Oscar-winning dive and the thespian leg-clutching feigned injury.

Equally unpleasant is the almost complete absence of grace and modesty in victory. Contestants in children's TV gameshows are now expected to behave like copulating footballers if they can correctly answer a quiz question, while a family game of Scrabble is nowadays likely

to end with a child pulling a shirt over their head and running around the room.

Our children only hold up a mirror to us adults, however. The worst offenders in promoting sporting aggression are the parents, as a cursory review of any school-field touchline will reveal. Meanwhile, the profusion of sexual metaphors in celebratory displays, from the zoo-like mountings of footballers to the champagne sprayings of motor-racers, coarsen us all. Even tennis players only shake hands over the net now after they have pranced around like pop stars for five minutes.

There may not be any direct link between this lack of restraint and football hooliganism, but it is is worth reasserting in any case the virtues of the "good sport". And we should congratulate Arturo Brizio Carter, the Mexican referee, for braving the wrath of the host nation crowds and sending off French star Zinedine Zidane on Thursday for stamping. Let us give the World Cup referees and Wimbledon umpires full backing, not just in enforcing the rules of the game, but in policing the universal rules of mutual respect.

The day I met a mass killer – and he smirked, knowing he'd escape justice

THERE WERE many killers at Nyarubuye. Men and women, even some children. Some wore the uniform of the army. Others were police officers. Most were ordinary Hutu peasants. But out of all of them, Flora Rwakampore remembers most vividly the face of Sylvestre Gacumbitsi, Mayor of the commune and local leader of Rwanda's ruling

He was a big man; a pillar of church and community. He was the man you went to if you had problems with education for your children, or disputes over farmland. Mr Gacumbitsi was the man who preserved order in the crowded hills. Who kept a signed blessing from the Pope on the walls of his home. His was the face of authority. So when he appeared at the church on the first morning of the slaughter, Flora was completely taken

And then the Mayor began shouting out instructions, urging the killers into action. The hundreds of terrified refugees, who had fled to the church at Nyarubuye, were surrounded. Slowly, the killers worked their way through the crowd, Mayor Gacumbitsi allowing them to break for lunch and go home in the evenings.

The task of killing was undertaken during normal working hours. But as one of the mob told me later, "It was exhausting work. Very difficult*. To ensure that none of their in-

tended victims could escape during the night, the killers slashed the tendons of their

It is not clear if Mr Gacumbitsi literally steeped his own hands in the blood that flowed over the four long days of killing. But Flora clearly remembers that he ferried the killers to and from the village in his pickup truck and that he supplied the ma-chetes and clubs which were used to hack and beat and gouge. More than anything, she remembers his voice, bellowing words of murder. It rose above the dull sounds of clubbing and hacking; above the cries of the dying and the pleas for mercy.

A month or so later, I refugee camp in Tanzania where he had fled with thousands of other Hutu. With a victorious Tutsi army at their backs, Gacumbitsi and the others had feared retribution, so they crossed the border.

Not surprisingly, when I confronted the Mayor with evidence of his crimes, he denied all responsibility. "The Tutsis are the ones who say this. I am a Hutu. Do you think they like me?" he said.

It was without doubt the my journalistic career. Gacumbitsi was clearly implicated in a monstrous crime against humanity, and yet he



FERGAL KEANE His voice rose above

the dull sounds of clubbing; above the cries of the dying and the pleas for mercy

tracked Gacumbitsi to a escaped justice. Having watched the world stand by and allow the genocide to proceed, Mr Gacumbitsi had little reason to believe he would ever be called to account.

But something has changed in the four years since that encounter. To the best of my knowledge, Sylvestre Gacumbitsi is still living in a refugee camp in Tanzania. But he must do so now in a permanent state of fear. For he knows that any moment, an indictment may arrive which most frustrating encounter of will result in his arrest and transfer to the war crimes tribùnal at Arusha.

It is surely just a matter of time. Shocked by the failure of was able to smirk at the alle- will which allowed nearly a milgations, confident that he had lion people to be slaughtered. the world is at last calling the the Second World War. The architects of that apocalypse to

Were it not for the existence

of the Arusha tribunal, it is likely that many of the worst butchers would escape any judicial sanction. It has already notched up a significant success with the admission by Rwanda's former Prime minister, Jean Kambanda, that the genocide was planned at the highest levels in government. Even the most sceptical of onlookers have been forced to accept that there has been real progress.

Likewise, in the former Yugoslavia, the international court has been steadily pressing on with investigations and indictments. Many of the more notorious criminals are still at of becoming a toothless irrellarge - Karadzic and Mladic to name but two - but like Mr Gacumbitsi, they must live in permanent fear of arrest.

The atrocities in Bosnia and Rwanda have given new impetus to calls for a permanent court to try war criminals. For the next three weeks, governments and NGOs will meet in Rome to try and reach agreement on the establishment of such a body.

On the face of it, the relative success of both the Yugoslav and Rwandan tribunals should make a compelling argument for the creation of a permanent international court. It is, we are impunity that has governed in world affairs since the end of Of course not

relentless abuse of the rights of ordinary people must be brought to an end. This is all very well.

But up to now the UN senotable exception - has in-sisted that investigations can only take place if authorised by the state where the abuse is alleged to have taken place, or by the council as a whole. The Americans fear any tribunal that would override national sovereignty or lead to possible "frivolous" prosecutions spurred by its enemies.

But a court that is not inde-

pendent of the major powers, that cannot operate without the assent of the country it wishes to investigate, is in danger evance. That is the central issue in the Rome negotiations. Imagine seeking the agreement of Milosevic for an investigation into his own role in the Kosovo campaign. Picture Boris Yeltsin giving the nod for a probe into Russian abuses in somewhere like Chechnya. Or the Chinese willingly accommodating the ar-

rival of investigators in Tibet. It is relatively easy to pursue the guilty when dealing with Rwanda. A new government has come to power determined to punish the genocide. But what if it had succeeded and Gacumbitsi told, time to end the culture of and friends were still in power. Would they agree to be tried?

However, such fears should not necessarily destroy the effectiveness of the court. If there is an answer, it is to be found in the role of the Chief Prosecutor Judge Louise Arcurity council - with Britain a bour from Canada has shown, both in former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda, what an independent and vigorous prosecutor can achieve.

That is why the decision to launch investigations must lie with the office of the Chief Prosecutor - and that individual must be truly free and independent. It may well be that individual governments refuse to co-operate, that the investigators are refused visas or are wilfully obstructed (as was the case in Eastern Zaire).

But with a strong prosecutor who is able to name the guilty, the offending countries would at the very least pay a high price in public opinion. If we are not able to enforce justice, then it comes down to a simple question of moral force. We must shame the accused, even if we cannot jail them.

We must accept that a lot of the time, the killers and their leaders will escape justice. In a world so filled with human rights abuses, we can only expect to purish a few. But if nothing else, the knowledge that such a court exists may give butchers like Sylvestre Gacumbits food for thought when they starid all powerful before a crowd of terrified



MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Football Hooligans • Japanese Yen • Lawrence Inquiry • Pauline Hanson • Julie Burchill Book



Is it enough just to be ashamed of them?

LE MONDE France

The World Cup began with dreams of goals, great football and fair play. Little did we know before the weekend was over, the dreams would have evaporated. Football hooligans were back.

THE EXPRESS

Why stage a football match against Tunisia in a its clashes between North African migrants? Is this another example, along with the ticket fiasco and the transport strikes, of French inability to handle the World Cup?

ENGLISH FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS

Reactions to the rioting by England supporters at the World Cup

EL PAIS Spain

In strictly sporting terms, England won 2-0 against Tunisia. In social terms, it lost many points against the whole world because of the racist hooliganism of hundreds of drunk and overexcited English fans. Britain's hooligans have been sowing panic wherever they pass for the last 20 years. It is surprising that with so much painful experience, neither the World Cup organisers, nor the French or British police, were capable of controlling this alcohol-soaked rabble.

NEW STATESMAN

Any match that threatens trouble should be cancelled on public-order grounds, or, alternatively, played behind closed doors at a secret location. On that basis, England should not play again in this World Cup. But it won't happen because too much money and political street-cred is at stake.

We'll just have to be grateful, instead, that Tony Blair keeps apologising on our behalf.

THE SCOTSMAN Scotland

Scotland's world cup dream still flickers, but at least the team has not dishonoured itself or its country. But let us not overlook the 60 Scottish hooligans who were stopped by French police on the border with Spain. This incident shows that the hooligans can be stopped.

THE SUN

This morning, sadly, the England team's great performance is overshadowed by hooliganism. We wish we could suggest a solution. But we can't. Like you, all we can do is weep.

PAULINE HANSON

After the electoral success of the racist One Nation party in Queensland:

THE AUSTRALIAN Australia

Originally, Hanson was an electoral phenomenon. All she ssionately believed in and all of her fears and resentments were electoral data. What she felt was what numerous ordinary Australians felt. Genuinely Fitfully Bitterly Australians are now asking: how did this electoral phenomenon turn into a dozen seats in the Queensland supposed to remain as blips on the radar screen. They are not supposed to win elections.

> Japan Times Japan

Hansonism is a potentially. destructive phenomenon. In dentifying multiculturalism and mmigration as the roots of Australia's current economic and social ills, it encourages the classic hard-times gambit of scapegoating. The country's tiny Aboriginal minority is one target. The United Nations, that bugbear of the far right, is another. And, yes, Asians a third.

SPECTATOR

The former fish-and-chip shop owner's message is indeed racist, but it cannot be dismissed as a protest from the political fringe. Outside the metropolitan centres that cling to the seaboard of the world's largest island, a spreading virus of race hatred threatens to engulf Australia. This moral and cultural catastrophe is the result of the failure of policies that have guided the country for a

Australia

Where is reconciliation now? I see t being as far away as it has eve been. All the old prejudices and fears have been re-awakened, and all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, are the losers.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE VOICE

UK

It appears that Trevor McDonald

is under threat from BBC

has got "current affairs

credibility" while McDonald

enjoys the support of the ITV

audience. If Trevor loses the

inroads into the media, for if

battle it will expose the lie that

Black people are making major

Trevor cannot succeed, who can?

Newsnight presenter Jeremy

Pazman in the race to present

ITV's new flagship current affairs

programme. Apparently Paxman

OUOTES OF THE WEEK

What is Linford Christie's lunchbox?" -**His Honour Mr Justice** Popplewell

"I don't want to look a gift horse in the mouth, let alone a Hollywood producer waving a large cheque" - Will Self, who has been signed to write his first screenplay

"The single currency is a dangerous political instrument which would destroy our national democracy" – Tory peer Lord Tebbit

"He knew that I was the first black woman to appear on the cover of Vogue and that Kate Moss started the revolution of little models. So I suppose we were both revolutionaries in his eyes" - Naomi Campbell, after meeting the Cuban leader Fidel Cas-

"Yorkshiremen never worry about class. If I met somebody snooty. I would just think he was an idiot" - Tom Kilburn, leader of the British team that built the world's first computer

"They are very nicely behaved, unlike Labour" -Peter Stringfellow, commenting on Conservatives he has entertained at his topless dancer

"They've even measured the depth of my wrinkles" - Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd, on seeing her new Madar Tussaud's waxwork

JAPANESE YEN

Analysis of the economic problems facing Japan

> SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST Hong Kong

It is regrettable that it took a series of increasingly blunt warnings from Beijing before the US and Japan were finally willing to take action to prop up the yen. so stemming the most dangerous element of the regional crisis, at least for the moment.

Having contributed to the yen's slide last week, through US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's ill-judged remark that there was little point in such intervention, Washington had a

LAWRENCE INQUIRY

Reactions to the police

apology for their bungled

investigation of the Stephen

Lawrence murder

THE DAILY MAIL

throwing yourself on the mercy of

the court; for priests it would be

akin to confession. Yesterday one

of London's most senior police

officers offered his apologies to

the parents of murdered black

Lawrence stay tight-lipped and

strut free. It is enough to make

THE MIRROR

The Met shouldn't expect thanks

for apologising over its handling

of the Stephen Lawrence case. It

has taken five years for it to say

sorry – and it comes near the end

of a devastating public inquiry.

What we want to hear is how the

Yard - and other police forces -

will prevent anything like this

happening again.

the murderers of Stephen

justice weep.

teenager Stephen Lawrence. But

To lawyers it must look like

responsibility to help undo some of the damage of those comments. But the responsibility rests even more heavily on the shoulders of Tokyo, which has come perilously close to dragging Asia into an economic meltdown.

GLOBE AND MAIL Canada

The chief source of economic rot in Japan is the intertwining of politics, banking, business and corruption. The politicians protected this cosy system in the time-honoured manner: they bribed their voters. The average member of the lower house of the Japanese parliament spends about \$2m a year to secure reelection, virtually all of which comes from business people for favours rendered. The petty

THE EVENING

STANDARD

Since the McPherson inquiry got

senior officer has given reluctant

evidence which has dug the Met

into a hole which seems to grow

deeper by the day. The Stephen

unmitigated disaster for the

investigation been so minutely

dissected, and never before has

Metropolitan Police. Never

such a catalogue of police

fecklessness been exposed.

Lawrence inquiry is an

before has a murder

under way, senior officer after

corruption that this engenders, however is nothing compared with the extravagance that government members lavish on their constituencies, such as multi-lane highways almost devoid of traffic.

Unfortunately, the crisis does not yet seem deep enough to have persuaded Japan's leaders to mend their ways. The international community must both give better advice to Japan and be more demanding that it accept the responsibilities that go with its economic status.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Australia

Japan continues to assure the world that it will reach this year's 1.9-per-cent growth target. Many,

DAILY STAR

Scotland Yard's apology to the

Stephen Lawrence could hardly

catalogue of police blunders and

involved in the scandal should be

case been more botched. There's

a long way to go yet before justice

inaction. But just because he's

had the guts to grovel publicly

let off the hook. Seldom has a

is done.

doesn't mean a single officer

parents of black teenager

have been more humbling.

Assistant Commissioner Ian

Johnston freely admits to a

on structural reforms. It is true that Japan, as the world's secondlargest economy, has the fate of many others dependent on it. But in all cases, including Australia's. it would be unwise to depend for economic salvation wholly on Japan to do all that is now demanded of it.

including some who have been

precipitating the whole Asian

such assurances. Japan will

remain under pressure to stop

the slide of the yen, to stimulate domestic consumption and work

meltdown, will not be moved by

ready to blame Japan for

BUSINESS WEEK **USA**

Propping up the yen is a stopgap measure that does nothing to solve Japan's deep-seated

system weighed down by hundreds of billions of dollars in bad loans, immediate structural reforms are necessary. If Japan collapses, even a vibrant US economy will suffer, along with the rest of the world economy.

problems. With the Japanese

economy slipping ever deeper -

into recession, and the banking

INVESTORS CHRONICLE

Will imported deflation from Asia offset domestically generated deflation? That is the main issue for investors. What is certain is that we are only beginning to see the full extent of imported deflation. Unfortunately it may not be enough to quell the UK's home-grown inflation problem.

NANDO TIMES Internet

A ione Argentine pilot who flew his small plane to the disputed Falkland Islands with gifts of tea and oranges landed back in Patagonia on Thursday after being detained in the islands as an illegal immigrant and expelled. Ernesto Barcella, who caused a brief diplomatic headache for Britain and Argentina, landed in the Argentine town of Comodoro Rivadavia to a hero's welcome from the media. He told television by radio from his cockpit that he had planned the flight for 18 months. Asked about his gifts for the islanders, Barcella said "the English like tea" while he had also taken oranges and flour "because neither fruit nor wheat can grow in the islands."

> TIMES OF INDIA India

The cost of the world's cuppa may no longer be entirely safe from the storm-tossed waters of the international market, what with the Kenyan drought and the Inonesian crisis. The recent confusion in the global tea market comes after years of static lateral growth. In the West, nothing has changed for years except the shape and design of tea-bags. But tea-bag geometry may matter little when tea is buffeted by the gales of supply and demand.

BOOK REVIEW

'DIANA' BY JULIE BURCHILL

EVENING STANDARD

Whatever you think of Julie Burchill, she's written some great putdowns in her time. Her slushy, gushy book about Princess Diana is currently being put down by readers throughout the land and I wish she'd stick to creating acerbic one-liners, like her telling comment about Camille Paglia:

"The g is silent – the only thing

about her that is."

It is difficult to believe such a could have been capable of enough to say it is overstated. ways unfair or sometimes a republican rant; it is a hagiography which, in its

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

gifted and sophisticated writer producing a book so exceptionally bad as her new biography of Diana, Princess of Wales. It is not cliche-ridden and sentimental; it is irrelevant to say it is in some hysterical adulation and partisan vulgarity, is an insult to its beloved subject.



SUNDAY TIMES

It is heady stuff, simultaneously persuasive and distasteful, a blend of shrewd, sensible and silly empathy with the plight of the Princess and a hate-filled, bitter insensitivity to the other tragic protagonist in the drama, the Prince of Wales.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Burchill articulates the feelings latent in many hundreds of thousands of men and women and it would be dangerous to ignore them or to assume that they have no reason to exist.

She has some valid points to make, and the Royal Family and its advisers need to take them into account in considering their future policies.

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The place of dinosaur dung in science and literature

THE SCIENTIFIC journal Nature to the rest of us. "Only yesterday" has bowed to the pressure of public curiosity and finally published an years ago, and when a geologist analysis of that "king size" heap of says "king size" he isn't thinking Tyronnosaurus rex dung which was discovered in the Canadian heap of ancient faeces equivalent

dung, however long it's been hanging about, but to the scientist it's a coprolite - not to be confused, by the by, with the remains of the plan-though, that's exciting interest: et Superman hailed from, one tiny nothing less than the remains of a fragment of which could rob him of all his strength and self-respect. as big as a cow chewed whole, di-The substance you're thinking of is

The magnitude of the Saskatchewan find to the scientific community can be measured by the

marital bed. Imagine, if you can, a province of Saskatchewan three in mass to the crater that would be made on the surface of the earth if Where I come from, dung is the moon fell into us. But convex tourist attraction.

It's what the coprolite contains, three-horned herbivorous dinosaur gested badly, and still in pain. Thereby proving what every schoolboy has always suspected, that the T rer was one mean mother.

None of this, I have to say, comes phrase "king size". Scientists work as any surprise to me. I've never

age theories to explain the disappearance of the dinosaurs. That they are one another to extinction always seemed to me the likeliest explanation. What else was there to do way back then?

Considering the philosophical implications of the discovery, Shakespeare said it all long ago: "The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interr'd with their bones." Pity the poor Tyran-nosaurus: 65 million years after its demise, and all we can find to remember it by is its messy eating.

As for the where the mega-stool itself was unearthed, here too there the grounds that it never invites me always know that Canada was one colossal shit-heap?

Forgive what may look like a gratuitous rudeness. I'm nursing a or two, always are hig on festivals. on a scale barely comprehensible held with any of the meteor or ice long-time grievance with Canada on



HOWARD JACOBSON

is nothing new to report. Didn't we to any of its famous waterfront literary festivals. Canada is big on festivals. Places which otherwise have no attractions, give or take a turd

It's smart thinking. That way you subvert criticism. What writer Aristophanes, turds in Chaucer, wants to miss out on a junket? What comedian? Now you know why it's such a long time since you heard a joke against Toronto or Montreal. Or Edinburgh. Or Adelaide.

Hay-on-Wye is another matter. Unlike every other writer on this planet, not to mention those from planets with cellulite, I wasn't there this year. This may have had something to do with the poor reception received last year.

Wrong place, wrong subject. Had Nature reported its findings earlier, I may have got away with my chosen topic - The Contribution Foeces to Humour – by wrapping it in dinosaur talk. Every country person loves a stool when it's an

got?" You come up with the answer, 'Anything!" So you have a festival take was to get heavy with the literature in a rural setting - farts in dunghills in Rabelais.

It's something you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy, being in a full tent in a muddy field in Hay-on-Wye (I always fill my tent in Hay, or at least, I always used to), frozen in horrid silence as you bury yourself deeper and deeper in ordure. While, from the other tents, come the sounds of male authors talking about their children and the washing-up. Ah, the children! Isn't that what we go to literary festivals for? To hear great writers talking about their children. "Well, better that than your fixation," my audience let me know. "Better to be a father than a coprophiliac."

In vain did I make protest to my

audience that I was no fonder of dung than the next man. That, if anything, I was a coprophobic, a person who had walked in preternatural fear of dung all his life. Hence my passionate advocacy of the value of scatological comedy: it reconciled me to the horror. What did they think I was doing - compiling a list of my favourite droppings? Poo We Have Loved? Desert Island Dung?

The tent blew and I died. I signed and sold no books. Sixty-five million years from now, geologists will dig in Hay-on-Wye and find evidence that a creature the size of a man was once passed whole through the digestive system of a many-headed monster. It may even get in Nature. But no coprolite will ever tell the true tragic story of what transpired there.

'One Chop Zhu', our favourite Communist

AT A conference for China's senior provincial state bankers in Peking last year, Zhu Rongji was in full flow, detailing the urgent reforms needed for the country's creaking banking sector. Then he suddenly paused. "Another problem," he thundered, "is that I hear that some people have been using my name and claiming that they know me." Mr Zhu pointed to one hapless state bank official sitting in the audience. "For instance, I've heard that you've been saying that you are a good friend of mine. Well, let me tell you, I don't know you."

In a country where influence-peddling is a way of life. Mr Zhu has no time for saving the face of incompetent Chinese cadres, but he is certainly the man everyone wants to know. When President Clinton arrives in China next Thursday, his official host will be China's president, Jiang Zemin. But the person who can tell Mr Clinton whether China can possibly negotiate the financial turmoil in Asia is Mr Zhu, who will be celebrating his first 100 days as China's new prime minister.

On his appointment, Mr Zhu vowed that, No matter what is awaiting me, whether it be landmines or an abyss, I will blaze my trail." And, as millions of Chinese are Zhu is doing just that.

His reform policies will throw tens of millions out of work and dismantle what is left of the Communist welfare system. And yet 99-year-old Zhu is probably the only Chinese politician admired by ordinary Chinese people. In recent weeks, the news-stands have been stacked with magazines devoted to "The Grand Master of Governance", with story lines such as "The Iron Fist of Reform" (over a magazine cover showing a picture of Mr Zhu smashing his fist on the table), and

"Zhu Rongji Radiates Glamour". No-one ever said that about his predecessor, Li Peng, whose official biography stressed that he "always helped with the household chores".

SATURDAY PROFILE ZHU RONGJI

Mr Zhu has more important chores, such as fending off the many enemies of his governmental clearout. "I have prepared 100 coffins," he has said. "Ninety-nine for the corrupt officials, and one for myself."

The Zhu blueprint is bold in the extreme, cutting the number of ministries from 40 to 29, and slashing the number of central and local government civil servants by half. China's loss-making state sector, which the government admits has 37 million surplus workers, is in for a similar overhaul. Added to that are plans to scrap subsidised housing, introduce private medical insurance, and reorganise an insolvent banking system.

The real test of Mr Zhu is whether he can actually implement. this programme, especially during a regional economic crisis. In his favour are his credentials as the most accomplished technocrat in the top leadership.

David Shambaugh, a China spe-cialist at George Washington University, says: "Zhu's style is markedly different from other comself-assured, and decisive.'

Denis Simon, head of Andersen Consulting in China, agrees: "What makes Zhu Rongji a strong leader is not so much that he has a model of change, it's that this is a guy who really wants to see change happen ... I think we have a kind of Trumanesque person in charge in

China, one who says the buck stops

Compared with his lacklustre colleagues, Mr Zhu is now every Western statesman's favorite Chinese leader. Tony Blair, who met the new Chinese prime minister in London earlier this year, was said to have been "in no doubt that he was in the company of a fellow moderniser" and "fascinated" by Mr

Zhu. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, described him as "very, very forward-looking".

Seasoned China-watchers offer a more balanced view. Gerald Segal, at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, says: "Mr Zhu's first 100 days have been mediocre in terms of domestic politics, but he has played a blinder in foreign policy and general public relations. The outside world loves him and his spin control on the question of the risks of devaluation being blamed on Japan are wonderful to behold albeit bogus in reality."
Mr Zhu's personal history may

explain his singular political style. He was born in 1928 in southern Hunan province, the home province of Mao Zedong, studied engineering at the prestigious Qinghua University, and joined the Communist Party in 1949, the year the People's Republic was established. In 1957 he fell foul of the party hardliners during the "Anti-Rightist" movement, after reportedly criticising the Chinese system and praising Hungary and Yugoslavia's brands of reformist

Mr Zhu is the only senior Chinese leader to have such a politically incorrect background, and when asked about it at his inaugural press conference in March, he said bluntly: "I learned a lot from that experience, but that experience was also unpleasant, so I don't want to mention it now." During the Cultural Revolution he was sent to the countryside for five years, and was not finally rehabilitated until 1979.

In the reform era of Deng Xiaoping, Mr Zhu soon proved himself at the State Economic Commission. In 1988 he was appointed mayor of Shanghai, and immediately pledged to boost the city's backward economy, cut red-tape, and halt expense-account banqueting by city of-

ficials. He even sent the top tourism bureau officials out to clean the city's filthy public lavatories. He was nicknamed "One Chop Zhu" for cutting through the bureaucracy for foreign investors; China-watchers called him "China's Gorbachev", a sobriquet he has always despised as a political liability.

Immediately after the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, when Shanghai was in the grip of huge demonstrations, streets were barricaded. and public transport at a halt, Mr Zhu went on television and calmed the situation by telling the city he had "never considered using troops or exercising any military control". It would be a mistake, however, to conclude that Mr Zhu could be a closet political liberal; he has stuck firmly by the party line on Tiananmen and other human rights issues.

After the 1989 crisis, Mr Zhu's rise was swift. In 1992, already a deputy prime minister, he was catapulted into the top-level Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in charge of the economy. The following year, with inflation heading for 25 per cent in the cities, Mr Zhu launched the savage austerity programme which brought the overheated economy under control and put his stamp on policy.

been nothing a provincial cadre has dreaded so much as an inspection tour by Mr 7hu. In 1994. on a trip to Heilongjiang province, Mr Zhu locked horns with the provincial party boss - and fired him on the spot. On another provincial visit, he noticed that a local official was wearing an expensive watch well beyond the means of his salary - and sacked him for corruption. Mr Zhu has instructed that banquets for him be limited to one soup and four dishes, instead of the lavish eating at public expense which most government employees go in for.

All that still leaves the question of whether Mr Zhu can achieve his dangerous, risky endeavour." goals. Reform of the banks has started, but the civil service is re-



China's premier Zhu Rongji is escorted round the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich in April

sisting the swingeing cuts in staffing. And the deadline for housing reforms in Peking has been delayed because newly-redundant workers are angry at being charged more rent. As Dr Simon observes. Basically what he has done is create a whole group of losers - people who have lost their jobs or their prerogatives and perks. So it's a very

Foreign politicians such as Mr Clinton, who endorse Mr Zhu's pro-

ject, would do well to remember the power structures of the Chinese political system. Mr Shambaugh cautions: "Mr Zhu is personally extremely vulnerable politically. He has no real patron to protect him, no real clients below him, no bureaucratic base, no ties with the military, has stepped on many toes to get where he is, and has the one policy portfolio that really runs a risk of trouble in the months and years

If Mr Zhu's bold plans can be out into place without causing a social upheaval, he will emerge as the master technocrat of China in the 21st century. But if his restructuring comes badly unstuck, President Jiang and the other top leaders will swiftly distance themselves from the chief architect of the radical reforms, and Mr Zhu will end his career as a political fall-guy.

TERESA POOLE

Forget America, this is the European century

SATURDAY ESSAY by RICHARD PELLIS

IN 1941, the publisher Henry imprint of America's century, Luce wrote a now-legendary article urging the United States to enter the war in Europe, mould the post-war world, and accept its role as a global power. If it did so, he predicted, people all over the world would concede that this was the "American"

At the time, Luce's prophecy was dismissed, even by Americans, as just the sort of pronouncement one might expect from a man with an evangelical temperament and the arrogance to call his magazines Time, Life, and Fortune.

Today, no one sneers at Luce. Instead, they embrace his concept of an American century as if this were the only possible way to describe the history of the past 100 years. Or to conceive of the future. In the May/June issue of the influential journal Foreign Affoirs, Mortimer Zuckerman - the publisher of US News and World Report - argues that the US is so affluent and technologically ingenious that the 21st century will surely be as dominated by America as was the 20th.

In Britain and on the continent, people are equally taken with Luce's hypothesis. At a recent conference in Leipzig, German scholars recalled how important the American military and cultural presence has been in their country since 1945. The

they insisted, was discernible everywhere, from missiles to

the former editor of the London Sunday Times is publishing in October his illustrated history of the US entitled, not surprisingly, The American Century. And with the year 2000 almost upon us, what pundit or professor can resist the opportunity to ruminate on the American century?

But perhaps we would do better to question, rather than embrace without thought, the Lucean vision. Should the 20th century be characterised as distinctively American? Or did the most important events of our century take place - just as they had in the 18th and 19th centuries - in Europe? Could the 20th century be more accurately described as the European instead of the American century?

America's impact on this century is indisputable. It has been a pioneer in mass production, mass consumption, and mass culture, innovations that have magnified America's global influence and transformed modern life. Because of the ubiquity of American products, advertisements, music, movies, television programmes, theme parks, and fast food emporiums, people on every continent over the post-war fate of Europe.

feel – sometimes uneasily – that they are living in an American-Meanwhile, Harrold Evans, ised world

Yet Europe's wars and ideological conflicts have done far more to shape the way people think and act than has Hollywood or Disneyland. The manipulativeness of America's mass culture has been inconsequential compared to the murderousness of Europe's mass movements. Europeans have therefore remained, unhappily, at the centre of the

Nothing illustrates this better than the two World Wars. Both wars, while they eventually involved America's armies, were less cataclysmic for Americans, especially on the home front, than they were for Europeans. America's cities were not bombed: its natural resources were not devastated; its civilian population was not terrorised. Europeans, in contrast, spent both the war years and the years after the wars - from 1917 until 1989 - living in the least New York, became the shadow of the totalitarian messiahs, along with their gulags

and concentration camps. The Bolshevik and Nazi revolutions as well as the Cold War were essentially struggles



From Ernest Hemingway to the US army, Americans spent much of the century involved with Europe

Indeed, the rise and fall of totalitarianism is the central political and human drama of the 20th century. And it is predominantly a European drama in which the US played a significant but secondary role.

In the loftier realm of science and the arts, it is usually said that after 1945, America, or at home of Western culture. This was certainly a reversal from the time before World War II when Americans regarded their own culture as a second-rate imitation of Europe's; and when American novelists, painters,

and composers thought they had to go to London, Paris, or Berlin to learn the latest theories and techniques.

But the postwar cultural preeminence of the United States was largely dependent on the contributions of Europeans. The construction of the atom bomb, the emergence of abstract expressionism as a uniquely American form of painting, and the evolution of American literature from Ernest Hemingway to Thomas Pynchon could not have occurred without the influence of European ideas or the flight of scholars and intellec- public issues that will likely dom-

tuals from Nazi Germany to

Even the global popularity of American movies is inconceivable without the presence in Hollywood of European directors, cinematographers, set designers, writers, and stars.

As we near the end of the century, Europe is again engaged in the most important of contemporary arguments over economic integration and the effort to achieve a balance between the free market and social welfare. The debate presently going on in Germany, France, Holland, and Britain is about how to create a mixed economy which will combine the values of privatisation and deregulation with social benefits like mass transit and state-funded medical care, services that barely exist in the

Stylistically, and in their campaign slogans, Tony Blair and Gerhard Schroder may well be clones of Bill Clinton, as their critics claim. But they confront electorates which do not share the American aversion to government programs. So while President Clinton talks vaguely about building bridges to the 21st century, Blair and Schroder focus more substantively on the large

inate economic and political dis-religious or linguistic sectaricussion in that century

One of those issues, the rapid expansion of a global economy and culture, is being propelled as much by British and European as by American corporations. Indeed, the most significant of the current multinational mergers consist of European companies taking over American firms.

Daimler-Benz purchases Chrysler, Bertelsmann buys Random House; Pierson Ltd takes over Simon and Schuster. In the meantime, Hachette -France's leading book and magazine publisher - helps finance George, the clossy monthly published by John F Kennedy, Jr. while the editor of the New Yorker, Tina Brown, is British.

The resistance to these instances of globalisation has also been rooted in Europe. From the civil wars in the former Yugoslavia to the separatist movements in Belgium and Spain, we see an anti-global sentiment that is shared by people around the world.

Occasionally, the resentment of globalisation inspires efforts within European countries to preserve regional dialects, as in the case of Gaelic, Welsh, Frisian, Provençal or Catalan. More often, the result is an eruption of nationalism, populism, ethnic assertiveness, and

anism. But whatever its form, the discomfort with a global economy and culture has been a characteristically European So was Henry Luce wrong?

Not entirely. American military power was crucial in ending Europe's wars, hot and cold. The US did become a missionary on behalf of democratic capital-And America's economic methods and cultural exports have changed how all of us work, what we buy, and how we entertain ourselves.

But this is a century that has been marked by extraordinary achievements in the arts and in sciences like physics and psychology, most of them originating in Britain and on the continent. It is also a century that has been plagued by totalitarian movements and state policies that resulted in the slaughter of millions, tragedies originating in Europe as well.

One can only wish that Henry Luce had been entirely right. Because if he were, then maybe the past 100 years would not have seemed so indelibly - at times for the better but mostly for the worst - the European century.

The writer is a Fulbright professor in American Studes at Bonn University.

Carlos Nadal

was the last wild expressionist of tions to the original group of Fauvist Barcelona

"A page of script can never re-

Words seem to be inadequate in their attempt to recreate the pictorial work. Looking at this work, five words seem to invite themselves: revelry, childhood,

Nadal's work at first appears to be naïve, almost childlike. However, it is difficult not to turn and sup the extravagant wild colours, bold lines and strange perspective.

Nadal was heavily influenced by Henri Matisse and Georges Braque, whom he met first as a young child at his father's studio. He was born in Paris, in 1917, to Catalan parents. His father ran an atelier of decorative arts, making posters and theatre backdrops, which in the early 1920s was a lucrative business.

In 1921 his parents returned to Barcelona. The young Carlos Nadal could think only of painting. At the age of 13 he lied about his age and



Nadal: 'the artist that got away'

THE CATALAN painter Carlos Nadal enrolled as a student of the School of Arts and Crafts in Barcelona, and Spain. He was also perhaps one of in 1932 became a student of the Sethe last artists with direct connec-

In 1936 he was conscripted into the Republican Army during the place a canvas," writes Hubert
Nyssen in his book Carlos Nadal

Spanish Civil War, fighting with
them on the Aragonese Front and,

Nadal escaped from the camp and returned to Spain without docu-Eventually he was given a condi-Barcelona, where he continued his studies. In 1942, Nadal's first one-

the Spanish painter Miguel Farré to assist with painting a series of large religious murals in three churches, Sarduni De Noya.

At the end of the Second World War. Nadal returned to Paris with a small scholarship from Barcelona Council. He additionally received a grant from the French Ministry of Culture. He began studies in the atelier of Ossip Zadkine, where he met his wife-to-be, a Belgian art student

At this time Nadal roomed in the Montparnasse area, where his close friends included the painters Antoni Clavé. Oscar Dominguez, André Lanskoy and Joan Miró, and the writer Jean-Paul Sartre. He also met Georges Braque, Pablo Picasso.

towards the end of the campaign, in

tured and interred at the concentration camp at St Cyprien. He spent five long months only able to draw on walls and pieces of detritus. This stood Nadal in good stead as he later could and would paint on anything from tea-towels to wallpaper, if the correct materials were not

man exhibition took place.

the front line at Tremp. In January 1939, he was cap-

ments; there he was arrested once again and detailed at Figueras. tional discharge and returned to In 1944 he was commissioned by

the Iglesia Santa Ana and the Carmelites, in Barcelona, Tarrasa Cathedral and the Chapel Raventos, at the Raventos family estate. San



Albert Marquet, Raoul Dufy and Maurice Utrillo.

Nadal was able to take up residence in the Spanish Hall at the Université de la Cité and, while sketching in the Parc Monceau opposite, he met Braque again, who had been watching him work for several days. He was invited to visit Braque's studio and, from then on. the Braque family often fed the hungry Nadal.

Although, by this time, Abstraction was becoming the great fashion, Nadal never lost his love for the Fauvist movement. In a series of later

paintings, Homage to My Friends, he captures Fauvism and Cubism within a single canvas.

Nadal was offered a US scholarship in 1949 by the Carnegie Foundation, but chose instead to marry Flore Joris, by now a sculptor. They moved to Brussels, where Nadal took up a contract with the art dealer Louis Manteau, and where their neighbour was René Magritte. Nadal also made friends with Paul Delvaux.

Louis Manteau gave the Nadals use of a house on the Côte d'Azur near Villauris and there Nadal painted many of his Mediterranean works, uous painting. Wild Seas with Luminous Skies. By the Sixties, Nadal was in great Bateau, and Paysage, with its red

Manteau introduced Nadal to Picasso, and the two Spaniards became good friends, sometimes visiting Matisse, who was by now unwell. In 1957 Nadal was commissioned

trees and blue villas - always colours

to shock and astound. It was here that

the World Atom Fair in Switzerland and then in 1958 to paint a large continuous mural for the Belgian Congo Transport Company at the Universal Exhibition in Brussels, consist-

ing of 320 square metres of contin-

demand for exhibitions in Europe, although little known in Britain. At last he had enough money to build his own studio and summer house near Barcelona.

In 1978 I was introduced to Nadal in Barcelona, and asked to represent to decorate the Belgian Pavilion at him in the UK I was stunned by "the artist that got away" - where had he been hiding? After several shows in the provinces, the Harrogate International Festival invited Nadal to hold a retrospective in 1984. Philip

Solomon, Brian Sewell and I travelled out to Spain to make a selection for an exhibition in 1987 at the

Solomon Gallery, in London. The first UK auction of Nadal's work was at Christie's in London in 1983 - the two paintings sold were: La Terraza and Los Parineos. His work now frequently turns up at auction in Britain.

John Duncalfe

Carlos Nadal, painter: born Paris 24 April 1917; married 1949 Flore Joris (died 1988; two sons); died Barcelona 6 June 1998.

Professor Harry Armytage

HARRY ARMYTAGE had a distin- Scunthorpe?" Why not indeed, in guished career as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and later, as Professor of Education in Sheffield University, style to press a serious point by using over a period of 32 years from 1948

As a scholar, his output of publications was prolific. As early as 1954, he had already published 110 articles students in the environments in in academic journals and five books. including a major work, Civic Universities: aspects of a British tradition (1954). He regarded any account of education as incomplete without reference to the historical and social conditions in which it was embedded, as witnessed by his Social History of Engineering (1961) and Heavens Below: Utopian experiments in England 1560-1960 (1962).

However, his major work which will be remembered by students of education was undoubtedly Four Hundred Years of English Education (1964) which became an essential entry on everybody's reading list. Armytage's later scholarship extended to accounts of American, French, German and Russian in-

fluences on English education. As a social historian of the future as well as the past, he wrote and lectured widely on the predictable effects of the technological revolution asked to describe the man. He was and the demographic changes that were later to create such havoc in the school system.

In the debate that led up to the massive expansion of higher education in the 1960s, Armytage famously contributed an article to the New Statesman in March 1961 in which he observed that a university in Coventry was long overdue and added "why not a university in

order to bring higher education to the people? It was the Armytage a seemingly flippant example, but his experience in Sheffield had convinced him of the value of harnessing local resources and immersing which they would later work.

His protest fell upon deaf ears when Sussex, Essex, Warwick, Norwich and Lancaster proved to be chosen sites. He lost the battle but did not lose the war. Coventry now has its university (by default), but Scunthorpe must wait a little longer.

Born in 1915, Armytage graduat-ed in 1937 with first class honours in the Historical tripos from Cambridge University and proceeded to a Certificate in Education and an MA. He went immediately into school teaching as Senior History Master at Dronfield Grammar School on the outskirts of Sheffield. After Second World War service, he married and returned to Dronfield. and his move to the Education Department at Sheffield University

seemed the natural next step. Educator, scholar, polymath, communicator, raconteur, these are the words that people use when also a political animal, though less a socialist than a man of independent mind who was proud of his humble origins and chose to work in an industrial environment where he could raise the level of people's hopes and aspirations. He was also a modest man and would say that he had never taken up tempting offers from elsewhere because he pond rather than a small fish in a

That small pond has subsequently become a big one, not least due to his contributions to Sheffield University, which has good reason to be grateful to someone who worked so effectively to bring town and gown together and to talk and negotiate with students during the unrest of the 1970s. He also committed himself to the daily, unforgiving round of committee meetings, faculty boards, and working parties to strengthen the university and maintain teacher education within it.

He served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1964 to 1968 and was a member of the planning committee for the New University of Ulster. The New University of Ulster in Coleraine awarded him an honorary degree in 1977 and he was finally admitted to the degree of Doctor of Letters by Sheffied University in 1991.

In the mind's eye, Armytage is always surrounded by students. He was a charismatic teacher and an accomplished raconteur able to illustrate a lecture from his store of frequently scurrilous anecdotes which are remembered long after time has obliterated the substance. He also gave unstinted time to the supervision of many Master's and PhD degree theses for students who are now to be found in leading

positions in many parts of the world. Together with Claude Eggertson of the University of Michigan, Armytage developed an exchange scheme which, by the early Seventies, had brought some 200 Michigan students to Sheffield to join with British trainees for six months at a time, and members of staff in the Sheffield depreferred to be a big fish in a small



A charismatic teacher and an accomplished raconteur: Armytage lecturing at Hull University in 1979

partment to exchange with their Michigan counterparts. Many friendships and joint research projects later helped the department to

extend its international links. His other innovation, a residential course held every year at Beatrice Webb House in Dorking, Surrey, proved to be the highlight of the year for both American and British stu-

different types of schools and experience a different culture.

After his retirement in 1982, Harry Armytage and his wife Frances (a historian) travelled wideby Harry spent two years as the Gerald Read Professor of Education at Kent State University in Ohio. Sadly, Walter Harry Green Armytage, this period of more relaxed activity

dents, who were able to visit many ended with Frances's illness and

death in 1996. Harry Armytage did so much for so many, and students and colleagues alike will remember him as a great man.

Pam Poppleton

educationist: born Kimberley,

South Africa 22 November 1915: Lecturer in Education, Sheffield University 1946-65, Senior Lecturет 1952-54, Professor 1954-82 (Emeritus), Pro-Vice-Chancellor 1961-68; Gerald Read Professor of Education, Kent State University, Ohio 1982-85; married 1948 Frances Horsfall (died 1996; one son); died Sheffield 13 June 1998.



Lucia Valentini-Terrani

COLORATURA mezzo-soprano was a voice category much favoured by Rossini, who wrote many magnificent roles in his operas for such a singer. Lucia Valentini Terrani was one who took full advantage of this repertory, singing comic characters such as Cenerentola (Cinderella) for her Scala and Covent Garden débuts, in Washington, Chicago, Aix-en-Provence, and many other cities: Isabella in Litaliono in Algeri, in which she made her Metropolitan debut: and Rosina

in Il barbiere di Siviglia. Her voice, wide-ranging, brilliant in quality, and extremely agile, also enabled her to sing roles in Rossini's serious operas, even more florid than those in his comedies: Arsace in Semiramide, the name part of Tancredi, and Malcolm in La donna del lago, all of them trouser roles.

Lucia Valentini, as she was before her marriage to the actor Alberto Terrani, was born in Padua, where she studied at the Conservatory. She also studied in Venice, and made her stage début in 1969 at Brescia as Cenerentola, which was to become her favourite part.

After singing it in Turin, and with

the Turin company at Versailles, in 1973 she took over the role at short notice from Teresa Berganza at La Scala, and her international career was well under way. With La Scala she visited the Bolshoi in Moscow in 1974 and Covent Garden in 1976, when her singing of Cenerentola caused a furore. Meanwhile, in 1975 she made her New York Metropolitan début as Isabella.

Valentini-Terrani also appeared in operas by composers other than Rossini: she sang Fidalma in Domenico Cimarosa's Il matrimonio segreto in Florence (1977), Marina in Boris Godunov at La Scala (1979), Charlotte in Massenet's Werther in Turin and Dulcinée in the same composer's Don Quichotte in Chicago: but her best non-Rossinian role was probably Mistress Quickly in Verdi's Falstoff, which she sang at Covent Garden with the Royal Opera in 1982.

That same year she appeared in Rome as Arsace, and at Pesaro during the Rossini Festival as Tancredi. At Pesaro she also sang Molcolm (1983), Melibea in Il viaggio a Reims (1984), Calbo in Macmetto II (1985) and Toncredi (1991).

cluded the title role of Ambroise, Thomas's Mignon, Bradamante in Handel's Alcina, Carmen, Gluck's Orfeo and Purceil's Dido. Valentini-Terrani returned to Covent Garden in 1987 as Rosina; her performance was well-received but not with quite such rapture as Cenerentola 11 years before or the Quickly of 1982. Her voice was as flexible as ever, but the tone was less smooth, while the top notes rang out with not quite so much

Other non-Rossinian roles in-

clarion purity as before. Although she stopped singing in the early 1990s, Valentini-Terrani left

a splendid legacy of recordings. She can be heard in Haydn's La fedeltà premiata and Il mondo della luna: and as Princess Eboli in Verdi's Don Carlos sung in French, conducted by Claudio Abbado and with Placido Domingo in the title role. However, her best recordings are, not surprisingly, the Rossini operas that she sang so often on stage.

Elizabeth Forbes

Lucia Valentini, opera singer: born Padua, Italy 28 August 1946; married Alberto Terrani; died Seattle, Washington 11 June 1998.

مكذا من ألاصل

John Smith

THE ARCHITECT John Smith was a radble for introducing a teaching system ical educational reformer Between 1971 and 1973, as president of the selffinancing Architectural Association (AA), he steered its council into a new attempt to absorb the AA School into the Imperial College of Science and Technology at London University.

The AA is an extraordinary institution, founded in 1847 by students to educate themselves. Since 1919 it has been based in Bedford Square, and has de-pended for its funding largely on the fees of its students. It has had an enormous influence on British architecture.

A quiet, modest, humorous man, Smith was part of that socialist and optimistic generation educated immediately after the Second World War. He studied (with a short interruption for National Service in Italy) at the AA for five years. After graduating in 1952 he began work with ACP, the Architects' Collaborative Partnership, with whom later – just before he began practice on his own account in 1960 – he was ap-pointed an associate partner. He worked mainly on the Hertfordshire Schools

As a practising architect, Smith ran general practice. He carried out small jobs, including youth clubs in Hertfordshire and the Stowe Club for Boys (1968) in Paddington, London, perhaps his best-known building. Both he and his partner David Braithwaite became in-terested in "pop" architecture and so-cial buildings and initiated a series of books, Excursions into Architecture, with the publisher Hugh Evelyn. Their first was Fairground Architecture (1968) followed soon after by my own Picture Palace (1969). He also designed a Hall of Mirrors for Madame Tussaud's.

A keen thespian, Smith worked tirelessly as a student for the Section AA Theatre Group annual pantos and carnivals (the latter architecture's equivalent to the Chelsea Arts Ball). He served as AA Student Union chairman and even found time to attend a CIAM (Congres Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne) Summer School in Venice. There he came face to face with modernist architects determined to move architectural education away from the traditional Beaux Arts system to a more democratic and open one.

In Britain the AA had long been the major beneficiary of this kind of reform. It was quick to recognise and promote modernism; in the 1930s Walter Gropius spoke here about the Bauhaus drawing style. Since then the modernist architectural estabishment in England has been the AA, which was also responsibroken down into units students can choose from - a practice which is now widespread.

Smith, as the AA's first two-term presera of independence after an abortive ident, was one of those - at the time of its 125th anniversary - who sought ways to sustain the AA's unique unit teaching system and to maintain its independent role. He encouraged the creation of a new executive role for a chairman to replace the previously divided roles of head of school and AA director.

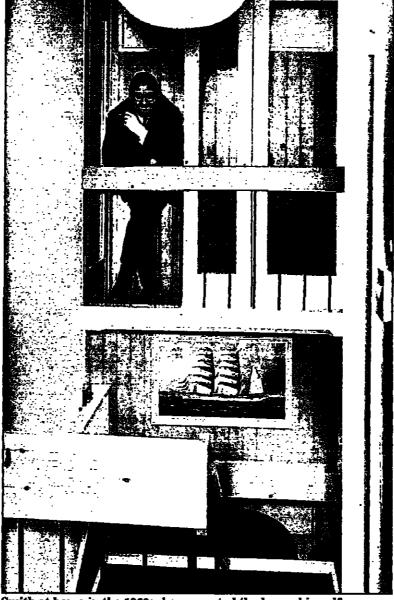
When he became President of Council in 1971, however, he was faced with number of dilemmas. Margaret Thatcher's educational policies had ruled out mandatory grants for AA students; the school itself was becoming penniless; and proposals were being considered for its closure.

Smith and others produced an Independence Working Party Report and were determined to maintain the AA's independent status at all costs. The school community - students and teachers - concurred. The council agreed to create a new executive AA Chairperson, a position to be filled through election by the AA student body.

Smith was determined to maintain the Architectural Association's independent status

After great drama and a period of indecision, the position was filled by an ex-Dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. The new chairman's appearance at the crisis-ridden scene even before a contract was signed put Smith under great stress. With due prescience he warned the AA about "an autocrat at its breakfast table" but with fairly typical indecision, the council approved the chairman's appointment. With others he was soon marginalised

by the very autocrat of which he had warned. The AA Council was similarly sidelined. This was not, however, before Smith had successfully led the AA and eventually the RIBA and ARCUK to sever links with South Africa over Apartheid, despite the fact that both institutions had many South African members and students.



Smith at home in the 1960s; he converted the house himself

Independently, Smith did wonderful line drawings for the national and professional press, including the Observer and House and Garden, and carried out a series of commissions on architectural education throughout Britain for the technical press. He also reported back to various bodies, including ARCUK (for whom he acted as AA nominee from the Sixties onwards), with his tough findings usually reflecting on the independent status of the AA and the motivation it provided for self-education

After editing the AA Journal from 1963 to 1965 he continued as editorial chairman until 1982. During this time, with the help of his skilful negotiations, it evolved into a new international Quarterly. Although he was never able terbury 28 April 1998.

and easy reform.

to complete a book himself (he had begun a biography of the notable but neglected Victorian engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819-91), who was responsible for London's foul water drainage system) he was a patient, fastidious and gifted editor.

He moved back to Kent in the late 1970s where he enjoyed county cricket and taught new generations of architectural students at the Canterbury School of Architecture until he was reluctantly forced by age and ill-health to

Dennis Sharp

John Smith, architect, editor and teacher: born Beckenham, Kent 10 November 1926; President, Architec-British journal of architecture, AA tural Association 1971-73; died Can-

HISTORICAL NOTES

A foreign life in a foreign land

"I SET no value on objects strange and ingenious and have no use for your manufactures." Thus in 1793 the Emperor rebuffed the first formal British mission to open China to foreign trade. Convinced, bowever, that in the interior there lay a huge market for their goods, British merchants persisted, initially by diplomacy and then by force. As a result, the first

treaty ports" in China were opened in 1843. Here, for almost a century, western traders, businessmen, missionaries, consuls and their families lived in separate enclaves or concessions. They were immune from Chinese laws and governed themselves, running their own municipal councils. For the Chinese, two of the Shanghai Municipal Council's many thousands of by-laws which barred dogs and Chinese (except for Chinese nannies or amahs in charge of small western children) from the public park, came to

stand as symbols of national humiliation. Writing about the treaty ports is complicated by the fact that their municipal archives are all in China. There was no requirement that archives or copies of archival materials be deposited abroad, for the treaty ports were not colonies, but represented a system described as "informal Empire".

As access to Chinese archives is a difficult and exasperating business, involving an enormous expenditure of time. money and patience for a disproportionately small reward, much information must be gathered from the volumes of memoirs written by treaty port inhabitants. These invariably touch on the vagaries of Chinese servants. They continually complain of servants' inability to apply the appropriate tool to a task; their attitude to toothbrushes, in particular, was unbealthily creative. Toothbrushes were used to scrub the bathroom, brush shoes and ice cakes. When challenged, a common line of defence was that the toothbrush in question was not the servant's own but "Master's" or "Missee's".

Daily life for some treaty port residents appeared to be one long battle with dishonesty. One man, convinced that his milk was being watered, went as far as to buy a hydrometer but it still took him weeks to discover the cunning contrivance of a hollow bamboo tube full of water that the milkman concealed in his sleeve.



19th-century British traders in China

Chinese servants were condemned to a state of infantilism by the use of pidgin English. This conveniently ignored tenses and declensions but reduced all recorded conversations in treaty port memoirs to a rather idiotic level. I have tried to avoid such exchanges although I know of the persistence of pidgin for, in 1976, the elderly Chinese servants still employed by the Shanghai representative of the Standard and Chartered Bank would appear silently at six to ask, "Missee want cocktail?"

The exceptions to the rule which characterised Chinese servants as unhygienic and prone to cheating are found in the books written by those who were children in the treaty ports. Like all western children at the time, they were largely brought up by servants, and all of them came to love their Chinese amah. Chinese amahs were patient and loving and their small charges usually learnt Chinese in their company, avoiding pidgin English.

Childhood memories aside, using memoirs written in the age of Empire raises problems. The separate lives of foreigners in their foreign enclaves and their attitude to the Chinese are no longer acceptable. But unacceptable anachronism is only one part of the phenomenon of pioneering Victorians struggling to recreate the sort of life they would have enjoyed had they stayed in Godalming or Edinburgh.

Frances Wood is the author of No Dogs and Not Many Chinese: treaty port life in China 1843-1943' (John Murray, £25)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

EVANS: Unexpectedly, on Tuesday 16 June, Alan Langham, dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Gidleigh, Devon, on Friday 26 June at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Exeter and District Leukaemia. Find may be given at the ser-vice or c/o Maddaford Funeral Service, 9 East Street, Oke-hampton (01837 52847).

FOSS: Eric Francis, OBE, former-FOSS: Eric Prancis, OBE, formerly headmaster of the Sir James Henderson School, Milan, Principal of the Gambia High School, Senior Master of Shebbear College, suddenly, on 18 June 1988 of Le Friquet, Castel, Guerusey, in his 81st year. Dearly loved and caring husband of Marie, father of Christopher and Rupert, and grandfather of Imogene and Rebecca. Funeral at the Vale Parish Church, Guernsey, on Tuesday 23 June at 3.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Samaritans or the Schizophrenia Samaritans or the Schizophreniz Fellowship, Guernsey, c/o Martels Funeral Services Ltd. Brock Road, St Sampsons, Guernsey, GY2 4PL HASTINGS: On 19 June 1998, Antoinette, aged 78. A loved and loving wife, mother, grandmoth-er and great-grandmother. Goodbye my darling, God bless you. John.

you. John.
STIRLING: Professor Paul, died on Wednesday 17 June 1998, at Medway Hospatal, after a short admission. A private funeral will take place on Friday 26 June, family flowers only. To celebrate his life with colleagues, students and friends, other events will be arranged at later dates. Donations in Paul's memory to Survival International, Save the Children Fund and the Allcorn Box Fund at Kent University.

IN MEMORIAM

BROUGHTON: Sandy. Love and miss you, Mark.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Include a day-time telephone number. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr C. P. M. Mowat and Miss C. F. M. Harper The engagement is announced between Charles eldest son of Mr and Mrs Magnus Mowat, of Whitegate, Cheshire, and Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Harper, of Monkland, Herefordshire.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: The Duchess of Gloucester, 52; Professor William Balchin, geographer, 82; Sir Brian Barder, former High Commissioner to Australia, 64; Professor Arthur Bell, former director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 72; Lord Brightman, former Judge of Appeal, 87; Mr Michael Buckley, the Ombudsman, 59; Miss Wendy Craig, actress, 64; The Earl of Cranbrook, chairman, English Nature, 65; Mr Joseph Dwyer, executive chairman, George Wimpey, 59; Brigadier Jill Field, former director, Defence Nursing Services, 64; Mr Stephen Frears, film director, 57; Mr David French, former director, Relate, 51; Mr Ronald Hines, actor, 69; Mr Richard Hornby, former chairman. Halifax Building Society, 76; Mr Alan Lamb, cricketer, 44; Mr Scottie McClue, broadcaster, 42; Mr Stanley Metcalfe, former chairman, Ranks Hovis McDougall, 66; Sir David Mitchell, former MP 70; Mr Johnny Morris, broadcaster, 82; Sir Antony

ROYAL

ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY: The Princess Royal,

Patron, British Nutrition Foun-

Nutrition Education Conference

at Forte Posthouse Southamp-

ton, Hampshire. Princess

Alexandra, Patron and Air

dation, attends the National

Pilkington, former chairman, Pilkington plc, 63; Mr Paul Ramirez, tennis player, 45; Mr Lionel Richie, singer and songwriter, 49; Mr Budge Rogers, rugby player, 59; Mr Vikram Seth, novelist. 46: Professor Sir Richard Southwood, zoologist, and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 67; Mr John Taylor, guitarist, 38; Miss Claire Tomalin, writer, 65; Sir Haydn Tudor Evans, former High Court judge, 78; The Right Rev John Waine, former Bishop of Chelmsford, 68; Mr Brian Wilson, rock singer and composer, 57.

TOMORROW: Prince William of Wales, 16: Mr Joseph Bamford, founder, J.C. Bamford Excavators, 82; Miss Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan, 45; Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe, trade union leader, 56; Mr Christopher Brown, former director and chief executive of the NSPCC, 60; Mr Jeremy Coney, cricketer, 46; Professor Anna Davies, philologist, 61; Mr Ray Davies, rock singer, 54: Mr John Edrich, cricketer, 61; Mr Wally Fawkes, cartoonist and jazz musician, 74; Miss Kate Hoey MP 52; Sir Bernard Ingham, former chief press secretary to the Prime Minister, 66; Mr Gerald Kaufman MP, 68; Professor Patricia Lindop, radiobiologist, 68; Mr Ian McEwan, novelist, 50; Sir Michael McWilliam, former director. School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, 65; Sir Michael Marshall, former MP, 68; Mr

missioner, City of London Police, 68; Sir John Morgan, diplomat, 69; Sir Edwin Nixon, former deputy chairman, National Westminster Bank, 73; Mr Richard Poulton, founder Headmaster. International School of the Regents, Pattaya, Thailand, 60; Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC, former MP, 52; Sir Hugh Rossi, former MP, 71; Miss Jane Russell, actress, 77; Lord Saatchi, advertising executive, 52; Mlle Françoise Sagan, author, 63; Mr Maurice Warren, chairman, Aggregate Industries, 65.

Peter Marshall, former Com-

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Jacques Offenbach (Jakob Levy Eberst), composer, 1819; Errol Flynn, actor. 1909. Deaths: Willem Barents. explorer, in the Arctic, 1597; Francisco (Pancho) Villa (Doroteo Arango), South American revolutionary. assassinated 1923. On this day: the first municipal fire brigade in Britain was founded at Beverley, Yorkshire, 1726; 147 people were confined in the cell later called the Black Hole of Calcutta, from which only 23 came out alive, 1756; a new Tay Railway Bridge was opened for public traffic, 1887. Today is the Feast Day of St Adalbert of Magdeburg, St Bain or Bagnus, St Goban, Saints John Fenwick and John Gavan, St Silverius, Pope.

TOMORROW: Births: Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, army officer, 1884; Mack

International Horse Trials at

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Caval-

ry Mounted Regiment mounts

Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Bat-

talion The Duke of Wellington's

Regiment mounts the Queen's

the Queen's Life Guard at

Burgie, Forres, Moray.

Gordon (Morris Gittler), lyricist, 1904; Jean-Paul Sartre, writer, 1905. Deaths: Niccolò di Bernardo dei Machiavelli, diplomat and author, 1527; Inigo Jones, architect, 1652; John Hatchard, publisher and bookseller, 1849. On this day: the foundation of stone of the new St Paul's Cathedral, London, was laid. 1675: the Royal College of Surgeons was founded, 1843; the musical show Evita was first produced, London, 1978. Tomorrow is the Summer Solstice (longest day) and the Feast Day of St Agofre dus, St Alban of Mainz, St Aloysius Gonzaga, St Engel mund, St Eusebius of Samosata, St John Rigby, St Leutfrid or Leufroi and St

LECTURES

Maine or Meen.

TODAY National Gallery: Richard Stemp, "Boating (iii): Canaletto, Venice: a regatio on the Grand Canal", 12om. Victoria and Albert Museum: Ghislaine Wood, "Art Nouveau Graphics", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Symbolic Shadowolay in Paintings", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Prints in Stuart Britain", 11.30am; Hilary Williams, "Turner's Land-scape Watercolours", 1.30pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Summertime Approaches: Millais and Monet", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery:

Alfred Bradley, "Fanny Bur-

Guard, at Buckingham Palace,

11.30am, band provided by the

TOMORROW: The Household

mounts the Queen's Life Guard at

Horse Guards, 10am; No 7 Com-

pany Coldstream Guards mounts

the Queen's Guard, at Bucking-

ham Palace, 11.30am, band

provided by the Welsh Guards.

Cavalry Mounted Regiment

Coldstream Guards.

ney", 3pm.

doematic.

But if there is one other fundamental Druid tenet, it is that nature is sacred. Tomorrow, the worshippers at Stonehenge will pray to the rising sun, and honour the sacred oak tree. It is at this point that orthodox

The people's instinct for natural signs

IT WILL be fun at Stonehenge idolatry. "Claiming to be wise, tomorrow: for the first time in nine years, assorted Druids and Pagans will be allowed to celebrate in its precincts the summer solstice. The Gorsedd will be performed, "one of Britain's oldest religious ceremonies" (I quote from no less a source than the Independent). Thus we will be reconnected across the centuries with the gentle nature religion of our pre-Christian ancestors.

Historians agree that we actually know very little about the religion of the various Celtic peoples who inhabited these islands before the Romans arrived. We know that the druids were a sort of priestly sage, and that their duties included augury and human sacrifice; they seem to have had a link with oak trees; much more than that is speculation. Disappointingly, there is absolutely no solid evidence linking them

Or perhaps not.

with Stonehenge. Tomorrow's festival was invented in modern times by Iolo Morganwg, a patriotic Welshman with a frenzied imagination and a penchant for forging ancient documents. He celebrated the first "Gorsedd" in London, on Primrose Hill, in 1792. Like so much of what we now think of as Welsh tradition, the Gorsedd was a creation of the Romantic Age.
Philip Shallcrass, a contem-

porary Druid, disarmingly admits our historical ignorance, and indeed welcomes it. "We know so little about what druids got up to in the past that we are free to concoct just about anything and call it Druidry today,' he writes in a volume entitled Paganism Today. Indeed, one of the few beliefs shared by contemporary Druids is that doctrinal tolerance is important; for their attitude to theology is highly individualisticand un-

easy: surely this is pure pagan Christians have traditionally Creator.

they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal humans or birds or animals or reptiles," as St Paul put it in Romans. The Druids, in their turn, will make light of the Christians' anxiety; it seems typical of a religion that exalts the spiritual, but fears and denigrates the material world.

Caricatures conceal as much as they reveal. It is not clear that all modern Druids make idols of nature. Many of them have even considered themselves as Christians. Philip Shallcrass tells us that "Most Druids . . . believe in

FAITH & REASON

MARGARET ATKINS

One of the few fundamental Druid tenets is that nature is sacred. Christians, who regard this belief as close to idolatry, have a more complex relationship with the material world

some kind of unified spiritual force underlying the manifest world." And Christians would share their belief.

On the other hand, the portrayal of Christianity as a religion hostile to the material world is deeply misleading. The Bible begins with the creation of the heavens and the earth, and God sees that each thing is good. In the incarnation, Christians believe, the Son of God identified himself fully with a flesh-and-blood human

Most Christian ritual is highly sacramental: the elements of the natural world become signs of the presence of God. Finallooked forward is not only spiritual, but also material: the resurrection of the body and the renewal of heaven and earth.

Caricatures distort; but they distort an underlying reality. It is true that Christianity inherited from Judaism a passionate opposition to idolatry, and a deep suspicion of anything that suggested nature-worship. We need to be clear about the real reason for this. This was not because Jews and Christians thought that the created world was evil. Indeed, Christians have argued vehemently for its goodness against dualist groups such as the Manichees. The point, rather, was that it was created, the handiwork of

the Creator For the Jews had made the greatest theological discovery of all time. They had come to understand what it means to claim that the Lord of Israel made heaven and earth. God is not simply a larger, more powerful, member of the universe, one of us but bigger. God is the source of everything that is. Any less than this - any limited being whom we could claim for ourselves, or manipulate, or even comprehend – is not God.

There is indeed a cosmos; the visible world does have a unity and an order, a meaning and a purpose. But that is true because its source and goal is the one Creator. In other words, the Christian attitude to creation is twofold. Creatures are not God, that is why they are not to be worshipped. But their source is in God, and that is why they may reveal his holy presence.

For many centuries Christians themselves held celebrations at midsummer. On the feast of John the Baptist they lit bonfires and asked for blessings on their cattle and crops. The Protestant establishment, fearing magic and superstition, put a stop to the fun. Perhaps, though, they should have trusted the people's instinct for natural signs.

The world, because it is created, is sacramental. That is why the sun so fittingly symbolises the power and beauty Christians begin to feel un- ly, the restoration to which and energy of its life-giving

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 Post Gazette author. The Independent, telephone 01/1-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

Chief Commandant, attends a

brate the 80th Anniversary of

Princess Mary's Royal Air

Force Nursing Service in St

Clement Danes Church, fol-

lowed by a Reception at the

TOMORROW: The Princess

Royal attends the Macallan

Royal Courts of Justice, London

Service of Thanksgiving to cele-

Tone deaf? Not according to his teacher

No half-measures for Tony Blair. When he learns classical guitar, he goes to one of the greats. By David Thomas

he flamenco guitarist, Paco Pena, turned 56 at the beginning of June, and some friends held a private Friday-night dinner party for him at their country home. The home in question was Chequers. The friends were Tony and

It was not their first meal together this year. At Easter, the Blairs went to stay at Pena's Spanish residence, an austerely beautiful, medieval, Moorish house, built around two galleried patios in the Juderia. or Jewish quarter of his home town of Cordoba. Their visit was not as long as had originally been planned events in Northern Ireland and the Middle East saw to that. But it was notable enough to attract the attention of Fleet Street and to provoke excited claims that Paco was teaching Tony to play the guitar.

He had even, it was said, lent the PM his cherished Gerundio – a guitarist's Fernandez Stradivarius. It was a delicious image: the world's finest exponent of flamenco instructing our Caesar-cut premier in the cool darkness of some Spanish bodega, while Cherie - her hair raven-black, her lips cherry-red - stamped a haughty foot and rattled her castanets.

Paco Peña is a genius. His close friend and fellow guitarist, John Williams, has said he would give his eye-teeth to play as well as he does. Three decades of sold-out concerts have taken him all over the world, and tonight his flamenco show Arte v Pasion headlines the Hampton Court Festival. But nothing had prepared him for the media whirlwind that struck him when he was outed as a special friend of Tony's. "It was unbelievable," he says, three months later, still shaking his head in bemusement "I was bombarded.

Everyone wanted interviews." But nobody got them. Pena has together in the airy conservatory of his double-fronted north London washed walls, creeping flowers and decorative china plates, a sort of intellectual paso doble begins, dancing

round the subject of Tony Blair. First things first: is the Prime Minister any good as a guitarist? Peña, a normally charming, articulate man, falls silent. Eventually he answers, uneasily. "I think so, yes, I feel very strange talking about someone so high-profile." But does he have a natural sense of rhythm with which to convey the throbbing beat of flamenco? Peña smiles. "He is a sensitive person and a musical person. As to rhythm, if you look at his life and



ask whether he does things at the right time, you would discover the answer to that.'

Spoken like a politician. And, like a politician. Pena proceeds to set the record straight. He and Tony spent much of their Easter break playing music together. But Peña added: "The Prime Minister doesn't actually play flamenco, and I am not teaching him. He has a general interest in guitar and classical guitar is what he learns. You know, his family has come to my house before. I have known them for several years. My wife Karin is a friend of Cherie, my children know their children, it is just like anyone else."

There is a reason for this discretion. One of the less welcome sideeffects of Blair's elevation is the effect it has had upon his old friendships. As the leader has retreated into the fastnesses of No 10, it has been left to Cherie to maintain ties with the outside world. But this, too, can have its complications. In the micro-managed world of New Lab PR, nothing. however innocent or trivial, can be left to chance. No one can be allowed "off-message" - not even Spanish guitarists. Friends of the Penas say that the Downing Street spinners were livid when word got out about the Blairs' Spanish excursion.

Peña, the eighth of nine children, he studied English. At night he earned his keep playing guitar in home, given a Hispanic air by white-restaurants, bars and clubs. On Saturdays, he gave flamenco lessons in the basement of the Wigmore Hall, where one of his pupils was a teenage boy called Adrian Lynch, who had ambitions to study the law. In the years ahead, Lynch would become a lecturer in jurisprudence at King's College, London, before joining a barrister's chambers run by a brilliant

Scottish lawyer, Derry Irvine. Though he went back to Spain, he returned to London in 1968 and within months he was making his major concert debut at the Royal Festival Hall as the supporting act for another young guitarist, Jimi Hendrix.

"At the time," Peña recalls, "that was an almost shocking experience. I wasn't at all knowledgeable about him, but he was a very impressive man and obviously a great artist." Hendrix went on to extinguish his talent and his life. Peña was smarter: he married Karin - an elegant, blonde Dutchwoman - raised a family and continued his steady rise.

For the past 30 years he has divided his time between London and Cordoba. Over the years, he became part of an arty, Hampstead set which included Tom Conti, Alan Bates and, through Lynch, Derry Irvine. Paco and Karin managed their business affairs with great care and enterprise, but they became ardent Labour-supporting north Londoners. When they were introduced to Tony and Cherie Blair, it must have been a meeting of

like-minded souls. For Blair and Pena share not just a set of political principles, nor even a love of music, but also a deceptive, authoritarian steeliness. Peña is the leader of a company of musicians and dancers. The glowing reviews which "Arte y Pasion" attracted when it toured Britain last year all remarked upon his self-effacement. The on-stage star was a dazzling young dancer called Angel Muñoz, the thinking woman's Joaquin Cortes, but Peña's performers dance to his tune. "I am the director and it is my show. There are a lot of people in it who are very good at what they do. I'm proud of them and I want to show them off, but there is no question that I am the boss and I control what they do."

So, tough on flamenco, tough on the causes of flamenco. But what about his role as a teacher? Peña is a visiting professor at the Rotterdam Conservatory. How does he instruct sober northern Europeans in such hot-blooded music? Once again, he is not afraid of hard choices: "I never take it lightly when I'm passing information on to someone else. If there in what I am brying to make them do I don't shy away from that or obscure it. Most of my pupils take it seriously. Others tend to be more interested in the more flashy aspects of the music, or in being themselves. It's almost an ego thing. That is a little battle I have to fight now and then."

As he struggles against the egos of Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, or tries to keep his back-benchers singing from the hymn-sheet, rather than making up their own, bright red descants, Tony Blair must surely know exactly how Paco Peña feels.

Paco Pena's show, 'Arte y Pasion', is at Hampton Court tonight at 7.30 (0181 781 9500)



Laurie Lewis (above)

We're on the march with Romeo's red army

THEY SAID it couldn't be done. And ously remembers it with particular mistake. This constant activity in the they were wrong. Arena ballet can be made to work - on its own terms. English National Ballet's Swan Lake last year took advantage of the vast arena of the Albert Hall to create some magical patterns with 60 swans. Could Derek Deane repeat the trick with Romeo and Juliet?

Unlike Swan Lake, this is not a sacred text: Prokofiev's score was not produced as a ballet until 1938 and now exists in many versions. Derek Deane danced in Kenneth MacMillan's production and obvi-

affection. His steps are well assembled and neatly danced but the overall effect is boring and busy -Deane has a definite problem with the ebb and flow of personnel.

The production designer, Roberta Guidi di Bagno, only had space for one real set, a castle gateway below the organ which screens the orchestra perched above it. Clearly, if all the dramatis personae use the same exit it's going to look a bit like a fire drill, so Deane makes repeated use of the public gangways. Big

aisles spoils the sightlines and even when the comings and goings have ceased for a moment, the perimeter of the stage is so cluttered with townsfolk that it is hard for the stalls to follow the plot. Higher seats prob-

ably fare better. Deane tries to clear the decks for the big fight in Act I, but not only is the mass exodus distracting, it's also highly unlikely. Let's face it: if a dingdong sword fight started in your shopping centre, you wouldn't choose that moment to go home.

BALLET

ROMEO AND JULIET ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON

Formal set pieces work better, such as the "Cushion Dance" in which the Capulets come out in force and give us that awful sense of a violent caste at play. Deane's kaleidoscopic patterns make excellent use of the space. Unfortunately, Howard Harrison's screamingly unsubtle red light made the crimsonvelveted corps appear to be

swimming in Benylin. Lady Capulet was danced by Lynn Seymour (MacMillan's original Juliet in 1965). Seymour, who has been enjoying an Indian summer of plum parts with Adventures in Motion Pictures, up over the side. seems to be locked in Wicked Stepmother mode, but she still dominated every scene.

Mercutio was the saucy, belligerent Dmitri Gruzdyev and little Laurentiu Guinea snarled his way through Tybalt like a mini-cab driver with a grudge. But we were waiting for the grand pas de deux.

The gateway opened and Juliet's Kirov guest, Altynai Asylmuratova, balcony lurched out across the floor and once again Deane has cunand pirouetted like a vast, balustraded Dalek. The audience giggled and Tamara Rojo was lucky not to throw

Her running romp with hand-some Roberto Bolle contained the usual quota of impassioned embraces and travelling lifts. The couple look good together but it was Rojo's fluid phrasing and heartfelt

acting that really stirred the blood. The first night of ENB's arena Swan Lake last year starred the

ningly used one sublime performance to transform the evening. After the business with the balcony I had not expected to be moved to anything but laughter by this production but Tamara Rojo's remarkable Juliet reduced me to tears.

To 30 June, RAH, London (0171 589 8212). Tamara Rojo is scheduled to dance tonight, Tuesday and Friday

LOUISE LEVENE

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turn to page 17 of The Independent Magazine ...

Shaved head, tall tales

LIKE SAMMY Haggar or Def Leppard, Hans Liberg is big in Germany. But don't let that put

This Dutch master is no Heavy Metal dinosaur, but a sophisticated musical comedian with a PhD in musicology from Amsterdam University and a specialist interest in Indonesian gamelan music and scat singing. His oh-sorefined brand of performance sat very snugly in the sur-roundings of the Purcell Room on London's South Bank on

Thursday night. Musical comedy is not generally a concept made to delight fans of either music or comedy; it can often fall embarrassingly between the two stools. Liberg, however, managed to

COMEDY HANS LIBERG **PURCELL ROOM** LONDON

bravura display of musical mickey-taking in his new show, "International". In a melodic whistlestop tour, he mocked everything from Bach to The

Nothing if not versatile, he proved hiroself of soloist standard not only on piano, harpsichord, trumpet, recorder, guitar, drum, and symphonic whip, but also on Power

With his shaved head, Schubert-esque specs and all-white uniform, Liberg resembled an escapee from the set of One hurdle those prejudices with a Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

He certainly has an unorthodox imagination. I mean, would you have dreamt of playing the sound of a mad cow on a rhythmical lap-top?

If there is a complaint about "International", it's that it is too bitty. Because the show was designed, Liberg tells us, for the seven-second-attention-span generation, it consists of lots of tasty, moreish morsels rather than a more sustained and

nourishing banquet. For all that, Liberg once had to earn his corn playing Kermit the Frog in a musical. With such an accomplished current repertoire, such humiliations should not be necessary in future.

This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper. JAMES RAMPTON

CLASSIC CARTOONS MARTIN PLIMMER ON THE OBDURATE ANDY CAPP





er, who viewed the world

through a cloth cap filter,

capitulation to political

can be seen to be a gradual

IT WOULD be satisfying to correctness, as cartoonist think Andy Capp stopped Reg Smythe laboured to bashing his wife Flo please 1,700 syndicated because he couldn't be outlets. This is a shame bothered any more, but the when intransigence is the truth is less appalling. The 41-year career of the shirk-

It could be a very articulate joke, as these early examples show. With Gazza gone, there are few male chauvinist icons left, so

unreconstructed men everywhere must be thankful for the year's supply of Andy Capp strips Smythe left us when he died last week. As an icon the modern Capp is perfect, preserving a message of male obnoxiouspess for an increasingly reasonable world.

Blow-up guys and dolls

Tree trunks, hair, rockets and glass - Project Dark show that vinyl is not the final word in record-making. By Fiona Sturges

PEOPLE WERE putting chocolate records on gramophones at the turn of the century," says the poppy-haired 29-year-old Kirsten Reynolds, as if chocolate records were as commonplace as chocolate bars. She is referring to a German company called Stollwerck, designers of novelty toy gramophones that played chocolate discs. "A muffled sound would come out of them, but it didn't last for very long." So she and her co-conspirator Ashley Davies, 31, have instead opted for more durable materials: etched glass, human hair, Braille, a slice of tree trunk and, most extraordinary of all, biscuits.

Let me explain. Reynolds and Davies are the founder members of Project Dark, a small collective which exhibits and plays records made from everything but vinyl John Peel was so impressed by them that he has included them in this year's Meltdown festival at the South Bank. They are bizarre, even by Peel standards.

Musicians have been smashing amplifiers and guitars for years, but it is a fairly new concept to tamper with the turntable. "I think it is the irreverence that is pleasing to a lot of people," says Reynolds. "The DJ has become this hallowed figure with ridiculously expensive equipment. We pay a couple of quid for our decks at flea markets, and then we blow them up.

Industriously bent over an assortment of clapped-out looking turntables, Reynolds and Davies emit spooky crashing, scratching and scraping sounds that are occasionally overlaid with strange samples and processed rhythms. Slabs of tree trunk on the decks look like they should be making mincemeat of the equipment while the Muppetlike 'hair' discs look ready to jump up and scamper off. A film on a big screen magnifies and distorts their activities which culminate with a rocket-powered record that explodes in an exquisite shower of snarks at the end of the show

Thankfully, Project Dark balk at says Davies. the "multimedia" label - a grossly



'We pay a couple of quid for our decks at flea markets, and then we blow them up.' say Project Dark

reluctant to label themselves as either DJs or artists.

Reynolds and Davies met in 1995 in "a noisy, thrashy sort of band" called Headbutt, that found considerable success in Europe. Holed up in a tour bus for five weeks, they began to swap ideas. "It was just one of those crazy conversations that usually comes to nothing" says Kirsten, "but when we came back to England, we launched into making these records.

Parodying that back-slapping industry accolade, the gold disc, they began exhibiting the records in frames. They planned to sell them as limited editions with the Headbutt releases, but then wondered if they could be played. "The range of sounds they made were just incredible and co

They are unlikely collaborators. over-subscribed term - and they are Davies spent years working on

building sites and playing in punk tion for blowing things up, Reynolds bands, while Reynolds went to art and Davies are remarkably acadeschool - which she describes as "a dangerous environment which validates very uninteresting work". But Project Dark is "a good collision," she says, "because we are so receptive to each other's ideas. We are like one person with two brains."

Despite their anti-establishment

mic about their work, reeling off a string of predecessors with scholarly precision. Reynolds mentions the Hungarian artist Moholy-Nagy, who used the grooves in records to develop a language of sound in the 1920s, while Davies extols the German pioneers of industrial music, values, day-glo locks, and predilec- Einstürzende Neubauten. They ap-

TICKET OFFER

Project Dark will be appearing as part of 'Peel Live' at Meltdown '98, tomorrow at 9.45pm. with Nought, FSK. The King, Trash and the Lance Gambit Trio at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. oon Sel. For booking, and for information on other events at Meltdown - which features

Cornershop, Spiritualized, Ardal

O'Hanlon, Ivor Cutler, The Jesus

and Mary Chain and Damon Al-

barn of Blur - call the Royal Fes-

tival Hall box office on 0171-960

will be given a pair of tickets for

4242. The first 15 Independent

tomorrow night's event.

pneumatic drills and cement mixers, and were banned from the ICA of all places for trying to drill a hole through the stage.
It was pure coincidence, however, that they found themselves following in the footsteps of Thomas

Edison and Graham Bell, both pioneers of the gramophone who experimented with different materials. "We had no idea that what we were doing was so similar. I don't have a lot of scientific knowledge,"

propriated the sounds of chainsaws,

says Reynolds, "but it would naturally be the next step." This does not appear to be quite the case as she starts talking animatedly about magnetic fields and stylus voltage. I am lost, but im-

pressed all the same. techno circles as the Aphex Twin. thing."

Kirsten Reynolds

who once played a whole DJ set with sandpaper at a New York show.

Project Dark are also bringing out a "conceptual" album - on their own label, of course - which will contain processed versions of the noises created by their textured records, and the commissions are piling up for sound installations in art spaces. To accommodate all this work they are making plans for expansion.

"If someone has a good idea then we will ask them to join us and just do it. That way we get more ideas generating and we get to play with another new toy," says Ashley ex-

But where most live acts hungrily pursue publicity and recording contracts, Project Dark's aspirations are endearingly modest. "Ultimately, | sical contemporaries, notably The main thing is to keep the ideas Richard James, better known in flowing. It's a perpetual inspiration

A bright star in the East

Mile End. arts Mecca? Strange but true, says Jennifer Rodger

FOR THE URBAN sun starved, London's East End will be a haven this coming solstice. Tomorrow, the bleak view of Mile End Park will vanish as it hosts Artsparkle, a month of art installations, performance acts and live music events. More than 10 years in the making, it forms part of the regeneration of Mile End Park. And with a recent bid to the Millennium Commission accepted. Artsparkle is a taste of what could be a permanent Artspark in

The broad sketch, which began with locals discussing the parks regeneration back in 1985, incorporates five themes: fun, play, art, ecology and sport. At Artsparkle it means imaginative interpretations, with sights including a giant walk-in inflatable and kinetic sculpture, school children erecting installations, a windmill that generates electricity and a performance of Shakespeare by toddlers from the Uechi Ryu Karate Club.

Over the next four weeks, open workshops will be held by local artists. And, whether walked-in, played upon, or interacted with, the art can be viewed as both highly enjoyable and accessible.

The artists involved either live or work in the East End (which boasts the largest number of working artists in Europe). One of the installations is Park Dreams, a huge moving sculpture lit up at night with projected images of EastEnders, and a video installation by Japanese-born Kumiko Shimizu which interprets Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream using wood sculpture.

"We hope that Artsparkle shows community arts at a very high level," says Ann Elliot, arts policy co-ordinator for Mile End Park's regeneration. "We don't want it to be in competition with some of the excellent galleries and museums in the area. We want it to be the people's place."

For further information, call 0171-377 0481. Independent readers who produce a copy of today's the price of one during the second week, 29 June to 5 July, (Admission E6.50/£4.50 concessions)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

BY JULIA WERDIGIER

POOR ★☆☆☆☆ *** *** ****

EXCELLENT ***

OVERVIEW

CRITICAL VIEW

ON VIEW

OUR VIEW

THE PLAY

THE UNEXPECTED MAN In Yasmina Reza's latest produc-

tion, a middle-aged man and woman sitting opposite each other on a train journey project their fantasies about life and love on to each other.

David Lister decided that "the con-

cept may be full of potential but the dialogue does not engage as much as one would hope". "Michael Gambon and Eileen Atkin's recital does not need any improvement," wrote the Daily Mail: It was a "feast of acting" although one tends to ask at the end, "Was that really it?" "A subtle portrait of a lonely marriage," said the Daily Telegraph, who found it a "witty and obviously more exper-

imental piece" than Art.

At the Duchess Theatre, London WC2, booking to 8 Aug (0171-494 5075), 75 minutes

Living up to the commercial success of Art was never going to be easy. Reza's latest production is a slight but beguiling concept.

future for a tour. What with school and everything

There are no plans in the near

THE GIG

HANSON

The first live appearance in Britain.

of the teenage pop sensations from Oklahoma - three brothers

Ryan Gilbey found the hysteria

"rather terrifying" but added "It's refreshing to find a pop group who

have their sights set on something more than just getting their faces on pillow cases." The Times recalled

the early days of the Jackson Five in

this "exuberantly infectious slice of

rock'n'roll", but added that "all their

songs are unremarkable, with the exception of 'MMMBop'." The Daily

vibrant"; when they played it. "the

Telegraph and the Daily Mail

agreed. "It sounded fresh and

boys were at their best."

aged between 12 and 17.

The female fans screamed louder than Hanson could play. But is there anything more to them than the catchy funk of "MMMBop"?

A lowbrow revamp of the 1988 Wenders original which eventually succumbs to a dizzy rush of

THE FILM

CITY OF ANGELS

Nicolas Cage - an angel becoming

destiny and afterlives while falling

in love in a remake of Wim Wen-

"Cage seems caged," wrote Ryan

Gilbey and found that Meg Ryan's curls were "fixed in place,

and her expression of bemused

wonderment seems lacquered

too." The Times thought it "a

bemoaned that "there are no

rity". The Financial Times

to surmise upon". "A lush

On general release, cert 12,

Statesman.

114 mins

sumptuous oddity" but praised

its "taste, intelligence and matu-

iconic tall monuments [for Cage]

weepy... that uses up forests of

Kleenex," proclaimed The New

ders' Wings of Desire.

human - and Meg Ryan - a sur-geon - philosophise about love,

★★☆☆☆

ARTS DIARY

men in suits. It's been de-

DAVID LISTER

CHANNEL 4 is shortly to broadcast a four-part series on the critics - the lives, though sadly not the loves. of theatre and music critics. I know most of these people and, without wishing to lose too many friends. I do think a four-part series is a bit over the top - about three and a half parts over the top. A couple of cameos in In The Psychiatrist's Chair would have been sufficient.

Besides, a much more interesting decision was taken this week which could one day make critics redundant. Patrick Marber's hit play Closer has taken out its own web site. It will allow users to give their views and comments on the show for others to read. As most producers acknowledge that it is word of mouth that sells tickets, a web site with word of several thousand mouths could prove highly significant. Next Thursday the innovative Internet chat scene featured in the play will be recreated with a live chat with Marber, I sincerely hope it catches on. Imagine an Internet chat with Harold Pinter, with users mistaking every pause for a fault in the system.

opposite is of men in suits. It's girls in tutus. Deborah Bull of the Royal Ballet posed in hers for the front page of one national paper after being appointed to the new Arts Council. Miss Bull declared: "Serving on the council has been done by old

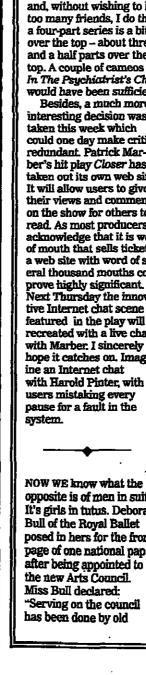
cided that we want fresh blood and young people in the arts." Certainly, there should be plenty to exercise Deborah's fresh blood and her blood pressure in the coming weeks. Should the council agree to the demand from the Royal Opera House for a doubling of their grant? That is sure to be high on the agenda. Except that Deborah will have to leave the room when the ROH is discussed because she is one of its employees and her presence would be against Council rules. Presumably she will also have to leave the room when ballet grants are discussed, as the Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Ballet would cry foul if an employee of one of their rivals was present. Indeed, as the ROH is the council's biggest client, most grant discussions will have to be conducted in Deborah's absence. It will give plenty of

time for limbering up in the corridor while the key decisions are taken - by men in

SIR GEORGE Martin's call

for record companies not to

use musicians who take drugs seems a little extreme and illiberal, and would cut a veritable swathe through Britpop. He'll want them banned from Tony Blair's soirées at 10 Downing Street next. I suspect memories of the night of 21 March 1967, during the making of Sergeant Pepper, might be partly responsible for Sir George's aversion. John Lennon, who had taken an LSD tablet by mistake (thinking it was an amphetamine). said he felt ill, and Sir George marched him up to the roof of the Abbey Road studios, saying briskly: "What you need is a breath of fresh air." John lurched towards the edge of the 50ft drop, swaying gently, looked at the stars and said: "Wow, isn't that amazing?" Paul McCartney and George Harrison ran up the stairs, rushed out and grabbed their colleague, later explaining gently to their producer that a roof is not the ideal place for someone haying a bad LSD trip. Sir George recalls wanly in his book. The Summer of Love: "The stars did look good, and there seemed to be a great many of them, but they didn't look that good." Nearly losing a Beatle in the middle of recording their most famous album must leave you pretty traumatised, even 30 years on.



They've never had it so bad

Two weeks ago the Japanese barely recognised the word 'recession'. Now, in the temples, the fish markets, the banks and the bars, its meaning is painfully obvious.

> Richard Lloyd Parry reports from Tokyo

heart of old Tokyo, is one of the most famous temples in enown as much to fun and naughtiness as to reverence. In the old days the temple area was alive with entertainers such as fortune tellers and performing dwarfs. People come from all over the country to browse in the traditional shops in the arcade leading

brocade kimono sashes, or various dried seaweeds, the Asakusa from this week's intervention by the temple area has always been the place to visit. Later, you could slip into the temple itself for a brief prayer. But in the last two months.

The shops are empty, and when people pass through now, they do not linger over the displays of paper umbrellas: they walk down into the temple compound, with its five- elusive; in central Tokyo you can go storey pagoda and huge vermilion about your business without ever worship hall. Here they bow and waft smoke over themselves from huge cauldrons of burning incense.

"They come here to pray for an end to the depression," says Masatoshi Miyashita, the fourthgeneration proprietor of Miyashita Brocade. His sales are down by a quarter, and he can lower his prices no further and remain profitable. The brocade sashes and belts are accessories for kimonos which these days are worn only for grand occasions, such as weddings - but people no longer throw big parties.

His neighbour, Michihiko Sugawara, also has problems selling his bamboo and paper umbrellas - and faces an additional difficulty: the growing reluctance of Japanese banks to lend money. "Ten years ago, the banks would come to you and ask to lend you money," he says. "Now you have to go to them, and they take a lot of convincing." In the

sakusa Kannon, in the Otori Jinja, a nearby Shinto shrine, visitors attempt to bypass the bank manager and write their prayers on wooden tablets. One man prays for Japan, but it owes its a job; another for money to buy a house; half the prayer plaques contain requests for good business.

It is a week now since the Japanese government admitted that, after eight years of "slow growth", "stagnation" and latterly "zero growth". the country has finally slid into full-blown recession. On paper, the figures are clear: GDP is down If you are after a Samurai sword, more than 5 per cent; unemployment up to 4.1 per cent; and - apart US Treasury - the currency is losing its value by the day. The rest of the world is worried; today, finance officials from the G8 countries will a change has come over the area. gather in Tokyo to plead with the government to do something about the crisis before it begins to upset the economies of Europe and America. But in Japan the recession is coming face to face with it.

The economic troubles here are in a completely different league to those of Indonesia, where shame and anger at the collapse of the South Korean dream has manifested itself into a wounded determination to fight back. It is not even like the recession that hit western Europe in the early Eighties, leaving industries ravaged and communities washed up and jobless. Visitors, battered with with apocalyptic headlines about the collapse, are amazed when they arrive in Tokyo and find what still feels like one of the richest, most fashionconscious and materialistic cities in

the world. So far, there are still several degrees of separation between the Japanese and their recession. Among the shopkeepers in the temple, everyone knows someone who has been sacked, although



none of the shops are going under yet. But the brooding presence of the slump has become universal. Gloom is seeping slowly down the economy - from the banks to heavy industries, from big trading houses down to the quiet backwaters of the economic network, such as the

shopkeepers of Asakusa Kannon. Even assuming the unlikely best a co-ordinated programme of reform, leading to recovery in the next

newspaper these days is risutoro. a Japanese abbreviation of the Eng-

lish catchphrase "restructuring" Those who have held on to their jobs have been deprived of that other Japanese institution: the company bonus, usually given out in the summer or New Year, and once so reliable that workers considered it a component of their annual salary. "I was going to buy a car this year. and that's all off," says Hiroshi

positors doesn't reassure everyone - and, in any case, with some interest rates at less than one per cent, there is hardly anything to be gained from banks anyway. One of the very few booming markets in Japan these days is that in miniature sales small enough to fit into a drawer or on a bookcase. The country's biggest manufacturer is selling 800 safes a day, as Japanese choose, literally in some cases, to keep their money under the bed.

hotel wearing identical new white shirts and hanged themselves with identical cords in identical adjacent are almost unique in their willingness to pay out after suicides; in their notes, the men specified that the money should go not to their families, but to pay off their company The consumer funk in which the country finds itself is seen in nu-

merous small ways. Japanese night life culture, with its small bars run by motherly "mama-san", is under threat from the cuts in company expense accounts. Once, no business deal was complete without a string of late-night drinking and karaoke sessions, extortionately expensive but paid for by the firm. Now entertainment budgets have been cut, and the husinesses

which depended on them have been decimated. The fish market is suffering from the decline in sushi consumption, and the preference position parties, the Liberal Deamong customers of raw fish.

There has been a boom in an unpleasant brew known as happoshu a record low turn-out. - a "beer-like mait beverage" which is 50 per cent cheaper than the real thing, thanks to a tax loophole. It looks like beer, tastes almost like beer, and makes you fart like a hippopotamus. A Japanese magazine recently ran a hilarious feature entitled "The things people do to save locked away in safes by people too yen during the recession" which unintentionally brought to mind the spoof "Reader's Tips" that appear in Viz magazine.

One 26-year old woman admitted that she waits until closing time to go to the supermarket, when the prices of the day's fresh vegetables are dropped to get rid of them. And a salesman said he'd saved money previously spent on dialling directory enquiries - "instead," reported the magazine, "he looks up the saying a little prayer.

three businessmen checked into a numbers in the telephone directory." Stranger still, a female bank clerk has taken to collecting the small packets of tissues which are hotel rooms. Japanese life insurers handed out on every street corner in Tokyo as a form of advertising. "I soak them and produce my own handmade paper, which I press into elegant postcards," chirruped. "It's quite enjoyable."

What all economists agree on is that the causes of the crisis are deep-rooted and there are no quick solutions: Japan can either continue on its present course of stagnation, or reform its debt-laden and protected financial system - a process which will itself lead inevitably to the failure and collapse of inefficient companies. The country's politicians appear paralysed by the prospect, but their failure to act has galvanised no political reaction, other than apathy. Next month there will be elections for Japan's Upper House. Thanks partly to the weak and divided state of the opmocratic Party of prime minis Ryutaro Hashimoto, appears likely to perform very well, although with

At root the problem is psychological. Despite the hard times, Japanese are still rich by world standards. The country's debt problems are internal; it has no foreign borrowing. The problem is not there is no money, but that it is being scared or apathetic to spend. Economists are talking seriously about the boost to the national psyche which could be provided by Japanese success in the World Cup - when the national team faces Croatia in Nantes this afternoon, there will be more at stake than a place in the quarter finals. If, as expected, they lose, it is hard to see what can be done, other than lighting a stick of incense, crossing the fingers and



never be the same again: one by one, in the last three years especially, Japanese assumptions about their security and place in the world have been discredited. The concept of jobs for life, part of the post-war social contract on which the country's remarkable recovery was based, has gone, and the wave of closures and lay-offs have led to the adoption of new euphemisms which had no equivalent in Japanese: one of the most common words in any

got friends who took out huge mortgages and banked on the bonuses to pay them off." And those who do have money in hand face another problem: where to keep it?

Last year, another unwritten law was violated when a number of middle range banks and securities houses went under broken by the plunge in the stock market and the weight of unrepaid loans. The government's promise to protect de-

pecially among the young, and recent figures show an alarming increase in the number of suicides. Last year the number of people who killed themselves for "economic reasons" increased by 18 per cent, according to police figures. In the northern island of Hokkaido, where unemployment is highest, the num-

up by half In the most chilling case this year,

ber of economic suicides had gone

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So boring, they named it once

AND SO to Fakenham in Norfolk (3km by 1.5km, pop 7,000, main industry agriculture) to discover for myself whether it really is "one of the most boring places on earth". It's been a hot issue since this sleepy town's amour propre was dreadfully ruffled a week ago. The drama broke when the council's computer expert went online to update Fakenham's official entry with such attractions as the Gas Works and the Glandford Shell Factory. He stumbled across an entry for Fakenham on the Guide to Knowhere website, which accused the place of terminal te-

Since news of this damning indictment got out, this tiny market town has become the Althorpe Park of Fenland, with press, television and tourists descending, eager to taste the nature of ultimate boredom.

It's not easy. Getting to Fakenham requires a pilgrim's dedication. Trains halt at the comparative metropolis of Norwich or the bustling historic town of King's Lynn, each some 20 miles away, after which you rely on a bus that may or may not come, and, if it does, meanders through the hedgerows and lanes, stopping to pick up A spin doctor is aiming to change the image of the 'most boring place on earth'. By Angela Neustatter

anyone to be found in the tiny villages, as deserted as a Western saloon after a shoot-out. I arrived in Fakenham the

day the sleek, chic and urbane young spin doctor Kizzi Nkwocha was hitting town. Brandishing his popular soub-riquet "the black Max Clifford", this erstwhile News of the World drugs and showbiz reporter, who counts Mandy Allwood among his clients, was here to take on the challenge of reversing Fakenham's tarnished image.

Improbable it may be, but when Kizzi heard of Fakenham's fate he telephoned the town council and offered his help. He flung in the names of a handful of stars - Stephen Fry, actress Liza Goddard, Ross Kemp of EastEnders and Lionel Blair, who all know and love the area. He assured them he could convince the nation that the things Fakenham boasts the driest place in England

racecourse backing on to a



Fakenham's biggest fan

offering anything from clothes to "brass lumpy things", and the nearby Muckleborough Military Collection - are worth knowing about. His expression is a study in earnestness: "My purpose is to make Fakenham the most talked-about town in the country. It's not what I hope to do. It's what I will do. I'm going to with a rainfall comparable to bring Fakenham to the media Jerusalem, a bowling alley, a and the media to Fakenham."

"He offered his services and caravan park, a weekly market we said 'why not?'," explains

the deputy mayor, Keith Barrow, lyrical on the subject of his own 32 years living in Faken ham. "Particularly when he told us he wouldn't charge." Whatever his agenda in tak-

ing on the task, in Fakenham Kizzi is a local hero. On his Tuesday walkabout he was greeted with high-pitched delight by local kids who seemed to think Stan Collymore had arrived. Then came the butcher, the fish and chip shop man, the chap who runs the racecourse that has outnumbered Kempton Park at one of its race meetings, all effusive in their gratitude. Liza Goddard, who models advertisements for the local Aldiss store, added as much glamour as was possible on a day when a sky like a dirty dishcloth engulfed the flatlands of the East Anglian landscape.

"It's a matter of civic pride. setting the record straight," Keith Barrow explained as he led Kizzi through the shopping streets, into the council chamber and into the Crown Hotel bar, where he recalled that at some time a young woman had

been murdered He listed a "fabulous 15" things the town has going for it which include the local waterfowl park, the Fakenham choral society, an archery club, the revamped library and the Mc-Vitie's food factory where Linda

McCartney's meals are made. Kizzi's smile was indefatigable. "The town isn't about great architecture, wonderful shops or fantastic discos. It's the people. They've got sourit. they're open to change and certainly far from boring." Grand claims for a visit that lasted just four hours, but Kizzi is confident: "I don't have to stick my head up a cow's arse

to know a good steak," Meanwhile, in the face of local opprobrium, the man responsible for the fateful Internet listing has sold his computer and promised he will not go online again, éven though he is unrepentant.

Kizzi is planning further visits: "Taking me on was a brave decision for these people who live so far from the world of publicists, but we've put Fakenham on the national agenda. From now on anything that happens in this town is news." Watch this space.

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'It's impossible to have any kind of life on this pay. I'd pay all my bills then run out of money and not eat properly'

Lisa Dugdale is 22. And she thinks that the minimum wage plan will turn young people into second-class citizens. By Glenda Cooper

WHEN LEIGHANE Ashworth was 17 she used to start her day by running to work at 7.30 to fit in an hour at the supermarket before the school day started. The £3.16 an hour she was paid barely covered her bus fare.

"There's only me and my mum," she says. "I needed the money to give her for housekeeping, so half my wages was going on that. I couldn't turn work down, so some days I was working 12-hour days. They would call me in at any opportunity because it was far cheaper to get me than one of the older women.

It is something that Lisa Dugdale can sympathise with. When she was 18 she worked for as little as £2.50 an hour in an off-licence.

"I was working there with two managers who were both getting far more money than me and yet I was doing the same things - holding the keys, cashing up at the end, fending off huge drunk people."

Under the Government's proposal for the minimum wage, Leighane would have had no minimum wage at all - as she was under 18 - whereas Lisa would have been eligible for only 50p an hour more. They are keen to tell the Government that just being under 25 does not mean life is cheaper.

Nor does it mean that they do not have adult responsibilities. More than a million people aged 16-25 were listed as heads of households in the last census, and a third of them had dependent children.

The situation has got progressively worse for young workers. While in 1979 young men under 21 had earnings of on average 63 per cent of all male workers, this had fallen to less than half by 1996.

The corresponding figures for young women saw a fall of 77 per cent to 57 per cent. Cases reported to the Low Pay Unit have included an 18-year-old paid £1.50 an hour for a 40-hour week in a home for adults with special needs, a 19-year-old beautician from Yorkshire earning £1 an hour and a man from Birmpair of trousers he made.

"It's virtually impossible to have any kind of life on these sorts of wages," says Lisa, now 22.

"The problem is that when you are working you are spending more lunches and pay your fares. I didn't when I was on income support of £36 you end up getting ill.



ingham who was paid &p for each Lisa took home £70 a week; £50 of it went on rent. Top right: Leighane Ashworth had to accept the hours she was offered.

of which £50 went on rent. Her survival strategy was simple. "I ate a lot of toast and cereal. I'd try and budget and pay all my bills when I got paid and then I would run out of £20 a week extra," Lisa says. "That feel I had any more money than money and not eat properly. Then happened to a friend of mine and it

benefits system from an early age: mercially viable for you to claim ben-"Young people I've known would take efits and get a cash job." part-time jobs, cash in hand, to top just meant she had the money to af-

was counted as part-time she did not get sick pay or holiday pay.

"I needed the money, so I just had Other survival strategies for ford the television licence and pay to agree to the hours they offered more difficult to see friends," said

Lisa was taking home £70 a week young people mean working the her bills. It makes it more com- me." She was taking home about Lisa. "They get fed up asking you if £200 a month, which left her about £10 per week for herself after she had handed over the housekeeping and

> Both Leighane and Lisa found themselves increasingly estranged from their friends. "It becomes

you want to come out and you say-

Emma Boam, Keith Dobney

ing no. Then sometimes they would take you out for a drink and you'd feel paid her bus fare and money for food. like a scrounger because you couldn't buy one back. Or they'd think you weren't really skint, you

were tight."



that working as an 18-year-old meant she was not treated as an equal. She took home £55 a week – roughly £1.18 an hour. "I was supposed to be a shop assistant but I used to do the cleaning and go and get the manager's dinner. It was slave labour.

"I was living at home and so I used to give my mum £20 for my board and try to survive on the rest. I didn't spend too much on food because I never got a dinner hour - you took it when you could and if a customer came into the shop you had to leave your food and serve them.

"I was really ill once and the manager implied that if I didn't come in I would lose my job. I came in and was ill and got sent home. When I went back after two days, the two days were knocked off my wages.

She was eventually sacked, "It was raining. I used to cycle to work and I was two to three minutes late. I had a lovebite on my neck and the manager laid into me. He told me to take my work jumper off and that I had lost my job. I'm still unemployed now and although I'm not much worse off on benefit, I want to work."

All three feel that the Government's action will do nothing to encourage young people to take up work. They feel, they say, like "second class citizens".

"Nothing is cheaper because you to be paid less," says Lisa. "A landlord is not going to say your rent is cheaper because you are under 25. Cathy (not her real name) found Your travelcard isn't any cheaper,

Sorry Jim, time's up

HOW DO we know when we're too old to bounce on a bouncy castle, have an eyebrow pierced, or rap along with Buster Rimes? Do friends or family tell us? Do we instinctively recognise the passage of time and bow out gracefully, or refuse point blank to accept the inevitable?

Age is one of the crueller tricks that life plays on us, and nowhere can it be crueller than in sport.

I have found that the desire - no, more than that, the desperate need - to play football has become more urgent with age. During the years of my potential physical peak, I wasted my youth on the trivial pursuit of pleasure and measured my fitness by the number of hours put in on the dancefloor. I made my comeback, and indeed my debut in adult football, at the advanced age of 28, and now, a dozen years later, I exercise two or three times a week to stay fit enough to play in a veterans' league. What might be called the manana attitude of my wilderness years - forever vaguely promising myself that I'd get fit and find myself a team next season - has been replaced by the stark recognition that I might not be playing for very

much longer. With a couple of notable exceptions, my teammates are in the same boat. You couldn't call us has-beens because we were never there in the first place - men now into our forties who have been struggling to make the team since prima-

ry school. We know, all of us, that there is no league we can step down to when the pace begins to tell: this is rock bottom and we are all staring it in the face. When we can no longer keep up with the grandly titled Wandsworth Senior Premier-

LIFE

BRUCE MILLAR

ship League, we can no longer

play football at all.

So it was with some trepidation that we went about the business of shedding our ageing and extremely fragile goalkeeper. Now Jim, as I'll call him, was in all respects the senior figure in the club: he had been player-manager for longer than anyone could remember, set up our league, and more than the rest of us seemed to live and breathe for the team. Opinion was divided over his exact age; some put him in his late 50s, others in-

sisted he was over 60. He was also, by now, utterly useless in goal. To put it bluntly, Jim was too old to jump, dive, catch or even kick the ball. Our matches would be evenly balanced for 15 or 20 minutes, but then our opponents would cotton on to our fatal weakness, and start hoofing lobs in the general direction of our goal as soon as they crossed the half-way line. This tactic always destroyed the game as a contest by always being successful.

By half-time, two or three of these orbital shots would have floated over Jim's head and into the net. Full-time would find us all exhausted from the completely futile effort of trying to play the entire match in our opponents' half of the pitch, and still losing heavily.

At the post-game drink, which Jim wisely declined to join, he inevitably became the focus of our post-mortem discussions. It was nobody's idea of fun, we agreed, to get up and run around on a Sunday

morning when you knew you were going to be thrashed by four or five goals.

A growing body of players declared that they were not prepared to carry on playing with Jim in goal. "I hope I'll know when I'm past it", someone would announce every week, taking care to avoid eye contact in case he was taken up on the offer. In short, Jim had to go. But who would volunteer to tell him?

Midweek meetings, to which

Jim was not invited, were organised in the pub, ostensibly to discuss tactics. The only tactic under discussion was "How to get rid of Jim". We began to feel like a gang of Nigerian Army officers plotting our next coup, or Tory cabinet ministers lining up with knives behind Margaret Thatcher's back, the longer we conspired, the more the whole business assumed mythical proportions as we prepared to assassinate the patriarch. Feelings of guilt blossomed under the indulgent care of our wives who, to a woman, took Jim's side. "But you can't do that to Jim," they would chorus, "playing means so much to him."

Eventually, we came up with a plan: we would institute a democratic "rolling membership", each player taking his turn to pick the week's team and each player choosing a goalkeeper who was not Jim. It worked: after losing for week after week, we were undefeated in our next five matches. Jim, we heard on the grapevine, now thought we were a "bunch of bastards", but what did we expect?

As for me, I'll know when it's time to hang up my boots; when I can no longer face the after-match drink. I can be sure that they're talking about

Eloping in cyberspace. It was bound to happen. By Melanie McGrath

The heart of the Net

A TEENAGE girl loses her head and falls in love with a man twice her age. Her desperate parents try to stop ber contacting the man, but that only . makes him more alluring. Then the inevitable happens. In spite of all the efforts of her parents to prevent it, the girl runs off with her beau and heads for Gretna Green.

It's an everyday story. A minor tragedy that has been repeating itself for hundreds of years. Yet the story of 16 year-old Kelly Ann Fury and her 34-year old American boyfriend David Holford has made national headlines. Holford has been arrested and Fury's parents have requested she be made a ward of court. But why all this fuss? Simple: Holford and Fury met on the Internet.

A recent attitude survey showed that most people in this country still associate the Internet with financial fraud, pornography and pædophilia. It's hardly surprising, then, that this mundane story of a young girl (above the legal age of consent) and an older man should have stirred up such hysteria.

It's true that the Net is a sexualised environment, but no more so than the average pub or disco. It's true too that email is a sort of fantasy factory where normally reserved people often feel free to communicate much more intimately than they might do on the phone, or face to face.

That said, the Net changes nothing. Teenage girls have always had access to sexually charged environments. Fourteen-year-olds regularly trowel on the slap and slip into something slinky to get themselves into pubs and over-18 nightclubs. And as for fantasy, teenage love affairs are almost by definition fantasies, projections of some idealised notion of romance. That's precisely why we call them puppy

The point is that nothing happens on the Net that doesn't already hap-



Schoolgiri Kelly Ann Fury (left) and 34-year-old David Holford caused a furore as the first cyber-elopers

in the lie that anything - whether it be teenage folly or credit card fraud be more troubling, more outrageous, more downright wrong than if it happens in "real life". On the one hand we expect the wired world to be a prelapsarian Eden, and on the other, we condemn it as an electronic Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jacquie Disney of the Parents' Information Network, an organisation set up to support parents whose children use computers and the Net, argues that the Net has been demonised. "It's used to whip up all sorts of hysteria. The Net is no worse than chat lines or meeting people in the pub. Some will take advantage and others won't."

pen in the "real" world. We persist have got lost in all the Holford fury is that teenagers of both sexes have always had a taste for forbidden fruit. - that happens in cyberspace must. To teenage girls, older men are fearsomely alluring. And that's hardly surprising since boys of their own age seem like babies.

When I was 16, my best friend Julia began an affair with the village milkman, a married man in his late 30s. This was widely known and tutted over, but it was assumed that my friend would get over it. As, indeed, she did. No-one saw the need to involve the police, the courts and the media for the simple reason that it ing hysterical judgements about the was none of the police's, courts' or media's business.

A while ago I visited Walthamstow Girls' School in London's East End The PIN helpline number is 0891 to talk to the pupils about their

The Net had expanded their horizons. By logging on to the Net they could access data from the Antarctic and pictures of outer space and most of their time was taken up with just this kind of exploration.

Once, when their teacher left the room, they hastily quit the Antarca tic and logged on to another school's chat forum where they spent a merry 10 minutes flirting with the lads from a local boys' school. In other words, they did exactly what all schoolchildren do. The cat was away and they played.

For girls in single-sex education, or for the shy or simply inexperienced, flirting harmlessly on the Net may well help develop confidence and understanding. The Net can provide a safe space, where girls can learn to communicate and, yes, flirt with the opposite sex without being pre-judged on their physical appearance.

There will always be those teens who take their experiments too fac. who have sex too early and with inappropriate partners, who don't know when to say stop to drink or no to drugs. Jacquie Disney advises parents to put the family computer in an open access area of the house and "try to instill commonsense as you would with any social activity they might be engaged in".

Neither Kelly Ann Fury nor David Holford were committing any crime in running away together. Fury even completed her GCSEs before she went. There was nothing, as far as we know, to suggest that the relationship was abusive or exploitative. It was simply illjudged. Fury and Holford have made their mistakes. And in mak-Internet on very little evidence, we continue to make ours.

633644. They have a number of free The simple fact that seems to newly-installed Internet connection. guides on computing for parents

Beautiful but badly behaved

Clematis flowers can make a spectacular show, but the plant itself is a horticultural thug. The secret lies in skilful pruning and shaping to encourage a happy synergy with the host shrub. By Anna Pavord

only late-flowering clematis on a pergola, or indeed anywhere that the clematis as likely to mix itself up with a rose that needed pruning. On paper, the idea of having early, mideason and late-flowering clematis in the pergola seemed sound. It would extend the flowering season -something that gardening correscondents are always going on about,

As I tenderly planted April-flowering Clematis macropetala to surge through the rose 'Easlea's Folden Rambler', and as I swathed he incumbent solanum with fresh endrils of the May-flowering clemais 'The President', I did not realise what complications I was making for nyself. Both clematis have gone nad. But the solanum has now died and is impossible to extricate from ts suit of borrowed clothes, and I 2811't fight my way through the enreloping blankets of C macropetala to prune the rose when I need to.

If I had planted just late-flowerng types of C viticella, all the :lematis could have been cut down lose to the ground in February and he way would be clear for me to get n and do whatever work was necssary on the host shrubs.

But I didn't. So the solanum will nave to stay until some disaster hits he clematis too, when I can get both out of the way and start afresh. It's lifficult, though, to limit yourself ven in one part of the garden - to me season of flowering, given a famly such as the clematis which can provide flowers in almost any month of the year.

The season starts with creamyellow, freckled C cirrhosa, often in bloom by February. It's not such a hug as C armandii, which flowers hrough March and April. Both hose are evergreen, unlike the plorious spring-flowering kinds deived from C macropetala and C upino. Flowers get bigger as the eason advances, so you end up in nidsummer with dinner plates such is mid-blue 'General Sikorski' and lark red 'Niobe'.

By August and September, when he viticellas are at their best, the lower size has shrunk. In many sitlations, this is an advantage. Scent s heaviest in the autumn-flowering ands such as white C flammula, and rehderiana which smells of

The time of flowering to a great extent governs how you should rune your clematis. An enormous uss is made about this subject. some gardeners thoroughly enjoy ussing, so rather than deprive them of hours of profitable worry, I recmmend a week with a good book

In terms of pruning, clematis fall nto three categories: those that need none, those that need a light ouch, and those that respond to

worth remembering that a clematis will not die from lack of pruning. It may flower less than it otherwise would. It may flower at gutter rather than at eye level. But it will not keel over just because you and your flashing Felcos have not been

You need never prune the earliest flowering clematis, such as delicate C alpina types ('Francis Rivis' and his friends, vigorous C armandii, C macropetala and the popular C montana, though both this and C armandii may need cutting back if they are bullying other plants. If you want to reduce their spread, prune them immediately after flowering. Otherwise leave them alone. I don't prune the yellow, autumnflowering C tangutica, either, though some people treat it as a group three (hard prune) type. Ours mounds itself over a wall, flowering magnificently with no attention, so it gets none.

If clematis do need pruning, then do it in February. Subjects for light pruning include the popular 'Nelly Moser' (mauve with a lilac bar), 'Barbara Jackman', 'Lasurstern' and 'The President', all of which are out at the moment. Light pruning means taking out dead, weak, or scraggy-looking stems, entirely and cutting the rest of the stems back to the first strong pair of buds you can find. These will already be showing themselves plainly by the end of

The clematis that need the toughest treatment are those that flower in the second half of summer: the beautiful purple Jackmanii Superba', mauve-pink 'Comtesse de Bouchaud', sky-blue 'Perle d'Azur' and the Viticellas (my favourites), such as the reddish 'Abundance' and deep purple 'Royal Velours'.

All these should be cut back hard to within a foot or so of the ground. This is cathartic and gives you an opportunity each year to train properly and tie in the fresh stems to avoid an unholy tangle of growth. At the same time you can mulch all your clematis with compost or manure to keep the soil moist and the roots Dark purple here would be glum. cool. More important than pruning, though, is the position in which you plant your clematis. By nature, clematis are scramblers; they have no means by which they can stick themselves to supports. They are, however, beautifully equipped for hoisting themselves through some other growing things, and this is how they look best

A clematis plant is not in itself a thing of beauty. It has no particular form. Its flowers are its only raison

As it has naturally evolved as a scrambler, clematis thrives best with its feet in the shade and its head in the sun. Grown through some host such as ceanothus or viburnum, these conditions occur without

f I were starting again butchering The "none" option, of much effort on your part Mrs Chol-(dread words) I would plant course, is the easiest, and it is mondeley threading its way through an April-flowering ceanothus will ep decently out of the limelight until the ceanothus has finished its display and then quietly take over a starring role in late May and June. Or you could use the greenish-white C florida 'Alba Plena' with a sumner-flowering ceanothus.

Half a dozen little interferences in spring is all it takes to persuade a clematis to range experimentally over a wide area rather than bunch its stems altogether in a single, matted twist. Jackmanii Superba', a particularly vigorous variety with sumptuous velvety blooms of deep purple, responds particularly well to this gentle nudging. I have it on a south wall of the house where it wanders among the wisteria. A bush of rue, a peony and other neighbours prevent the sun from shining too hotly on the clematis roots. A thick mulch of muck in late spring also provides in-sulation - and food, for if the clematis is sharing space with a host shrub, it is also sharing food and drink, Make

Jackmanii Superba' is quite happy with this south aspect. Nelly Moser would not be. nale mauve with vivid each petal, fade badly

plenty of both.

true of the similar Marcel Moser and 'Bees Jubilee' These are best on east or west walls, but will also flower on northfacing walls, provided that they are not hideously exposed. The elegant white 'Marie Boisselot' is happy with a sunless north aspect. So is the pale blue 'Lady Northcliffe'. Pale

clematis shine out in dark corners.

in full sunshine. The same is

Clematis cirrhosa 'Freckles', above: clematis macropetala 'Anders', below Garden Picture Library



CLEMATIS ADDRESS BOOK

READ CLEMATIS by Christopher Lloyd (Viking); The Gardener's Guide to Growing Clematis by Raymond Evison (David & Charles)

SEE CLEMATIS at: Great Dixter, Northiam, East Sussex TN31 6PH, open daily (not Mon) 2pm-5pm, admission £3; 115 Hadlow Road, Tonbridge, Kent, open 12 July, 2pm-6pm, admission £1.50; 133 Crystal Palace Road, London SE22, open 5 July, 2pm-6pm, admission £1; The Mews Cottage, Harrogate, open 29 July, 2011-5.30pm. admission £1.50.

JOIN THE International Clematis Society, 3 Cuthberts Close, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN7 5RB (01992 636524); British Clematis Society, 4 Springfield, Lightwater. Surrey GU18 5XP (01276 476387), National Collections Treasures of Tenbury, Burford House Gardens,

Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8HQ (01584 810777); The Guernsey Clematis Nursery, Domarie Vineries, Les Sauvagées, St Sampson, Guernsey CI (01481 45942).

BUY FROM Great Dixter Nurseries, as above (01797 253107); Pennells, Newark Road, South Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9NT (01522 880044); Thorncroft, The Lings. Reymerston, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 40G (01953 850407).

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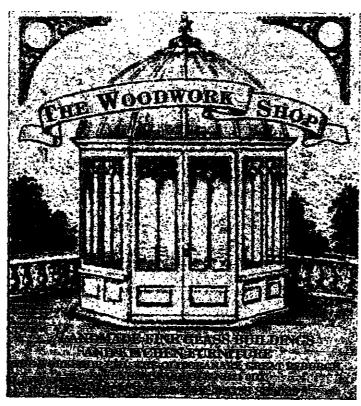
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Eloquence in a green shade

Ryl Nowell doesn't believe in instant planting plans; her approach to garden design is rooted in the landscape, writes Ursula Buchan

IT IS an uncomfortable truth, but a small brick stable at the top of the truth nonetheless, that designing a garden is difficult. To do it really well requires a mix of qualities – practicality, artistry and horticultural craft - not given to everyone. Most of us need help, if we are not to waste our time, money and energy on un-realistic or half-baked schemes.

Although she may not put it quite yet linked to the one above. so bluntly, this is essentially the opin-ion of Ryl Nowell, a professional garden designer of long standing, and a past chairman of the Society of Garden Designers. Should you be tempted to mutter, "well, she would think that wouldn't she?" it must be said at once that she has developed a "Centre of Garden Design" in her garden, in an attempt to give positive help to gardeners.

The rather charmingly-named Cabbages and Kings (or Wilderness Farm) is to be found on the slope of Hadlow Down, in East Sussex. Here, out of a single acre, next to a jumble of old farm buildings, Ryl Nowell has created an appealing arden, attractive in itself and highly instructive for the sharp-eyed vis-

The garden is fortunate in its situation: it is set apart from other gardens and there are lovely views from it across the High Weald. But there the luck runs out. It is situated on an east-facing slope and is buffeted by cold winds in winter. The soil is thin and, although a spring rises in the garden, much of the land remains resolutely dry. And, until 1990, it was a farmyard. Among the many enormous tasks that faced Ryl, when she took it on, was the necessity of digging up the concrete yard and laying soil on top of the rubble to make the lawn, as the concrete was too expensive to cart away. One ern and forward-looking. Ryl uses barn had to be removed to reveal the view, while another was so ugly that

it needed to be radically changed. The only attractive feature of the whole place, Ryl says, was a at a glance. And she cleverly em-

ALKOLI (*1711)

slope; beside it, she has made what she calls the Cottage Garden, a space no larger than the average small garden, where many of the design principles by which she works can be seen realised. This is the highest of seven terraces, cut into the slope, each individual in nature,

"I built the garden very much with people walking through it, and gleaning ideas, in mind." The garden has proved invaluable for showing her work to her private clients, as well as other visitors. She has allowed the paving, wall, pool, statues, seats, topiary and planting to speak so much more eloquently than words, or even photographs. That said she has written an Illuminating booklet for visitors.

Ryl is adamant that visitors to the garden should not simply copy her ideas; rather, they should feel free to copy them to their own individual sites and requirements, having absorbed the basic principles that guide her work. Her catch-phrase she says, is "people, place and land-

"People", she explains, refers to the ways people will want to use the garden; "place" refers to what the site offers, in the form of soil, aspect, and outlook; and "landscape" is how the place fits into its broader context. "If you ignore any one of these, you are missing out on a great opportunity.

Cabbages and Kings may have been founded as an exercise in didacticism, but it also provides a tranquil and visually satisfying experience. It is tangible proof that

Ryl's basic principles work. The garden is also unfussily modtall, statuesque grasses, such as Stipa gigantea, in place of hedges, to screen one area from another and to prevent all from being revealed you are lucky it may include over-

in a field where anyone can put a After a first degree in horticulture at the University of London at Wye joined a landscape architect's pracvears for a landscape architecture degree. She has had her own prac tice for 20 years.

"You need several lifetimes, really, because in choosing to go down the design route I have left horticulture and plants behind," she says. On the evidence of the garden at Wilderness Farm she emphatically has not done so, but this is perhaps why she does not suffer from the debilitating British disease of plant mania. When designing for a client, she leaves the planting plan until everything else is settled, and works with larger numbers of the same plant than we might, in order to make strong, un-

fussy plantings. Ryl's desire to initiate us into the mysteries of good garden design is almost evangelistic. Her conversation is exhilarating because she is so little bound by conventional ideas of how the perfect garden should look, while remaining wedded to notions of simple and strong design,

ploys recurring plant species, to-gether with directional paths and steps, to give the garden the appearance of flowing from one level to the next. "If gardens are divided by rigid enclosures, they will appear even smaller," she maintains. "The answer is to make rooms that feel enclosed, yet are sufficiently open to also feel part of the whole garden. The walls may be a clump of tall grass, a tree trunk or a few bushes, in fact anything that interrupts the vision. The ceiling is the sky, and if hanging branches of a large tree." Rvl Nowell has thought long and hard about these matters. Her train-

ing was more rigorous than is usual brass plaque on the door and call themselves a "garden designer" College, in the early Sixties, she tice and studied part time for four

> using good quality (though not necessarily expensive) materials and Back at home, with the mantra of "people, place and landscape" running in my head, I found myself looking at my garden in a new way. That is what a trip to Wilderness Farm will

> > Cabbages and Kings, Hadlow Down, is five-and-a-half miles north east of Uckfield, half a mile south of Hadlow Down, beside Wilderness Lane. It is open to visitors from Easter to September, on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays, from 10am to 6pm. Admission costs £2.50, concessions £2.





WEEKEND WORK

■ Prune plants such as decaisnea where you want to limit their final size. Take out one or two branches entirely. The suckering habit means that the plant will soon throw new growth from near its

■Prune other shrubs such as

philadelphus, weigela and deutzia

in the same way, as soon as they

have finished flowering. ■ Early-flowering shrub roses such as 'Frühlingsgold' and 'Nevada' can also be pruned now if necessary. If left entirely to their own devices, they amass a lot of dead, twiggy growth. Cutting out one or two branches at the base encourages new, fresh growth. ■ Tackle bindweed that is growing in between shrubs and herbaceous perennials by untwining the growths carefully and stuffing them all into a polythene sack. Then you can spray the bindweed inside the sack, using a herbicide containing glyphosate, without the spray hitting anything else. ■ Indoor plants such as azalea. pelargonium, ivy and Easter cactus

can be sent outside now for a summer holiday. Continue to feed them as usual until you bring them back inside in September. ■ Take cuttings of African violets. Choose strong, healthy leaves and cut them away from the parent

Sink the stalks into a mix made from equal quantities of compost and sand and keep moist and warm (about 65°F). When they are rooted, pot the cuttings singly to grow on.

■ Stem cuttings of bougainvillea, clianthus, philodendron and stephanotis can also be taken now. ■ Attend to tomatoes. Those grown on a single stem need to be trained up a cane and anchored at regular intervals. Nip out any sideshoots growing in axils of the leaves. Feed regularly but do not overwater, to avoid diluting the taste of the fruit.

TWENTY-ONE artists from Leicestershire's award-winning Society of Botanical Illustrators are showing their work in an exhibition that opens on Wednesday at the Museum of Garden History, London. All the paintings have been inspired by plants in the museum's own garden, buds, full-blown flowers, seeds and seedpods. The Museum, at Lambeth Palace Road, London

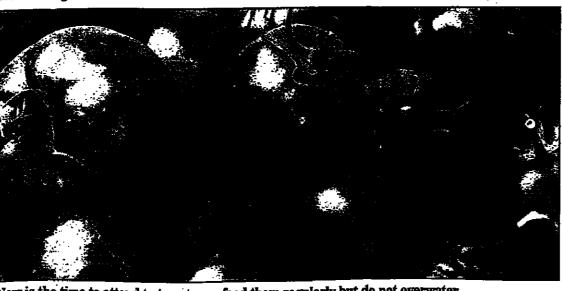
SE1 7LB, is open Mon-Fri

(10.30am-4pm) and Sunday

continues until 12 July.

(10.30am-5pm). The exhibition

continues all next week, with giant floral mobiles in the north and south halls of Covent Garden Market, garden designs with new plants and products along the east of the festival is the Performance Garden next to St Paul's Church. Flowers and plants cover the church as well as the stage, where music, theatre and dance. Off the Wall Gardens features unusual ways to decorate vertical spaces.

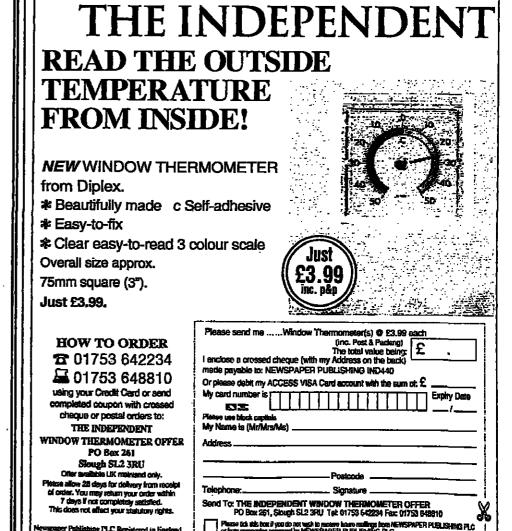


cut them away from the parent.

Now is the time to attend to tomatoes - feed them regularly but do not overwater plant with about 2in stem attached.

CUTTINGS

THE COVENT Garden Flower Festival opens tomorrow and and south piazzas. The centrepiece there is a week-long programme of



Ill met by monlight

The cruel and illegal practice of badger-baiting is on the increase, and urban gangs are the main culprits. By Matthew Brace

A MOONLIT night in the countryside. A gang of men gathers among the bushes at the edge of a field, equipped with high-powered torches, shotguns and sacks. Ratty terriers scratch eagerly around their heels.

They talk in hushed voices, hoasting of the bravery of their dogs, which invariably have bits of their faces missing. Ears have been torn off, noses sliced in half and eyes gouged. The more war-torn the dogs, the tougher their owners consider themselves to be "Trophies". or "medals", they call the facial

Once assembled, the men approach their target, tramping over fields and through hedgerows to a previously pinpointed site - a badger sett. They send in the dogs to corner the animal before digging away the roof of the chamber.

The chances are that the badger will be carted off in a sack to a nearby warehouse or barn to fight a duel with dogs in a makeshift pit, watched by the lamplit faces of betting punters. Such clandestine fights, in which neither badger nor dog stands much of a chance of escaping without serious injury, can carry a weighty purse and are worth risking the wrath of country bobbies. Books making thousands of pounds have been known.

If not removed for baiting, the badger will be attacked at the sett by the dogs, purely for the delectation of those present - with no be:ting involved. And just to make sure their dogs are not killed in combat tone terrier is rarely a match for the sharp claws of a furious cornered badger) such men will disable the wild animal, usually by shooting it in the leg. If a badger manages to get free of the sett it will be caught in the blinding lights and stunned into submission by the beam.

Whatever the badger's final destination, it will die; it will be killed either by a pack of terriers, or from Britain's best loved mammals, it is

This is the secret face of badger

persecution, and it is on the increase again in fields and woodland throughout the country, according to the Federation of Badger Groups. The exact number of illegal

killings is impossible to calculate because these crimes, which contravene the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, are not among those collated by the Home Office, despite calls from wildlife police officers for them to be included.

However, according to intelligence being gathered by the Federation, which represents 85 local groups, their recent estimate of 10,000 baiting deaths a year is rising. It already accounts for a significant chunk of the adult population of about 250,000 badgers.

Despite a number of high-profile cases and increased punishments concerning baiting, the crimes continue. One reason could be publicity linking badgers to the spread of TB in cattle, a connection that is still

Elaine King, of the Federation. believes that as a result of this demonisation of badgers, their persecution has become "decriminalised" and some people even think they are doing farmers a favour by killing them. "People are under the illusion that badgers have lots of cubs and that the population is increasing all the time, but this is not true," says

"A pair will have maybe two or three cribs at the most in a litter, and on average only one of those will survive to adulthood. Since all the media publicity about the supposed ink between them and TB in cattle, they have been increasingly under threat as people have started to think of them as vermin, even though this link has never been proved," she

Although the badger is one of

its injuries, or from gunshot wounds. no stranger to cruelty. Baiting has has traditionally been most popular in mining districts. South Yorkshire, County Durham and Derbyshire are still among the counties with the highest incidence of baiting.

However, according to campaigners and police wildlife officers, the majority of today's baiters are urban men who travel out to the countryside to indulge in their pas-

David Dunne, who has camaigned against badger persecution for many years, and jointly runs the Ryedale Badger Group in North Yorkshire, says: "It's always been a very macho thing, and I would say it is 95 per cent town and city people who come out to the country

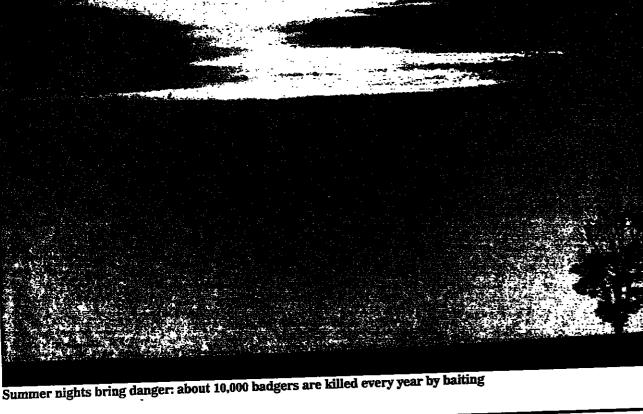
"We know a lot of people who come out from Leeds. York and Sheffield, even Middlesbrough sometimes, and one man is very well known - he travels each weekend from Leeds to the West Country to dig badgers.

"If you can get £40 or £50 for selling a badger to organised baits, then that will pay for your petrol and you've had a good weekend out in the

I can understand them enjoying being out there on a crisp night. They'll see all sorts of things that the public don't normally see - deer, foxes, badgers. They've got the world to themselves, and they can stand back and watch their dogs go about their business.

"But why in God's name do they want to dig out and hurt these creatures for sport? That is what I can-

not understand." Whatever the appeal of badger-baiting, it is practised by what appears to be a growing number of people who are doing much to eradicate Britain's badger population, and are testing the resources of the wildlife officers who patrol our hedgerows.



What's on this weekend

FANCY A skirl this Sunday? Then head for Hazlehead Park, where cabers will be tossed, reels danced and heavy hammers thrown to the poignant sound of bagpipes at the annual Aberdeen Highland Games. There's sword-dancing, a salute to the Chieftain, a display of massed pipe bands and lots of traditional Highland competitions. You can flex your muscles at the tug-of-war, and meet special guest TV Gladiator "Hunter" (aka James Crossley) before drinking a restorative wee dram - Glenfiddich is one of the sponsors.

Aberdeen Highland Games, Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen, on Sunday, 21 June, 10am-5pm. Admission: adults £4, children £2, family ticket £10.

SALLY KINDBERG



Old tricks for a young dog

How do you train a gun dog? Perhaps it's the dog that trains you. Duff Hart-Davis disagrees

WE THOUGHT hard before getting a new puppy. Having owned Labradors for 20-odd years, we knew all too well what a tie a dog is. A cat you can leave to its own devices for a day or two; a dog cannot be left for more than a few hours.

After the demise of Zephyr, our last old-stager, the first dog-free months seemed a delightful liberation; but gradually we began to feel that an element was missing from our lives, and when a friend announced that her bitch was pregnant, our fate was sealed. The mother-to-be, a nice-looking pedigree black Labrador of medium build called Madhaid (Gaelic for "dog", pronounced "Maddy"), had never been trained as a gun dog, but we knew that she had a generous temperament. The father lives in Warwickshire, and during the pregnancy I took the trouble to drive up and see him, to make sure he was not one of those huge, bulky dogs that are bred more for show than for work.

Going up the Fosse Way, I kept thinking of Alan, a gamekeeper of my acquaintance, who once memorably condemned a show-bred Labrador that he saw on a television clip of Cruft's. "Bloody old gurl come on," he grunted. "Dog spruced up to buggery. You fire one shot, that bugger'd be gorn. Wouldn't see him no more for a week. Bloody useless."

I need not have worried. Man of War was beautifully built, strong, fast and agile, full of zip yet under perfect control. I returned reassured, and confirmed that I was in the market

for a black bitch. The litter arrived on 28 February: one yellow, six black. When they were a month old I went along and, having spent a few minutes watching them stagger about, picked one of the little bitches, which we marked with a dab of nail varnish on her claws. When she was two

months old I returned to take her away; but at the last moment I treacherously changed my mind. One of her sisters, not yet bespoke, seemed even more attractive, and quicker in her reactions, so I took her instead.

Thus we acquired Jemima, with her big, soft, puddleduck paws, and within hours were forcibly reminded of the astonishing destructive power of a puppy. Forget the odd puddle or mess; that can easily be cleared up. Infinitely more damaging is her compulsion to gnash everything on which she can close her jaws.

Hide chews from the pet shop detain her for an hour or so, as do rubber balls that squeak like rabbits in their death-throes. Much more satisfying, however, are other objects. Plastic flower pots make a gratifying racket when hustied across flagstones. Old training shoes are tough enough to offer prolonged resistance; the pine legs of the kitchen table, on the other hand, are soft enough to yield satisfying chips and shavings. and every unsupervised session leaves them noticeably thinner.

I can forgive Jemima all this because she is irresistibly attractive: we have put in many hours getting to know each other, and my reward is that she follows me everywhere, going to sleep - for preference - on my feet while I am working. Besides, I detect in her the makings of a splendid gun dog.

I take it as a sign of intelligence that she likes to grapple with two different objects at once: to kill a plastic bottle and a knotted pair of old socks simultaneously is evidently more of a challenge than single combat with either. I rejoice in the speed with which she retrieves any portable object, and in the way she uses her nose, her chin furrowing the grass as she follows early-morning scents along the hedgerows.

At not quite four months, she has many hard lessons still to learn: that the cats have as much right to be indoors as she does, that chickens and alpacas are not for chasing, that sheep droppings are not on her menu, and that deep mining operations are not permitted in the vegetable plot. She recognises her name, but so far the only skills she has acquired are those of coming to the whistle and sitting when told. More complicated accomplishments must wait a few more months – and then I face the agonising question: should I train her myself, or send her away to a professional? Sixteen weeks' board and tuition would cost at least £800, and during that time I would not be allowed to visit her. She might return performing brilliantly but hav-

David Hughes

ing more or less forgotten me. Meanwhile, I can only marvel at the power of such a small animal to provoke innovation and expenditure. Within hours of her arrival I had to build several sets of wooden shuttering. to blank off electric cables and prevent them being eaten. Outside, I blocked off the steps leading up from the terrace, to make a temporary pen - only for Jemima to jump out anyway.

She herself cost £300, her compulsory inoculations more than £50, a sag-bag £35. I spent £20 on reinforcing the farmyard gate with netting - whereupon she jumped straight through the bars above the barrier. Yet she is about to provoke

a far greater extravagance than any of these. The flagstones of our ancient kitchen are cracked and pitted, and lie directly on the earth with gaps between them, so they are hopelessly unhygienic, especially when under nightly bombardment. For this reason, the puppy has provoked us into ordering an entire new kitchen, floor and all, for which the bill will certainly reach high into four figures.



Jemima: not quite four months and many hard lessons to learn Christopher Jones

علذا من ألاصل

Duff Hart-Davis

meets a Cotswold farmer who has turned his land over to a crop of weeds

igh on the edge of the Cotswold plateau, near the village Nailsworth, an ambitious agricultural experiment is starting to bear fruit. The largest plantation of elder bushes in England, covering 75 acres, is now three years old. This week, pickers were out collecting the heavily scented flowers, and the owner, Richard Kelly, was cautiously optimistic that as his little forest grows on towards maturity, it will start to do him proud.

An elder plantation? It sounds a contradiction in terms, for the straggling bushes normally grow wild along hedges and woodland borders. Yet in 1994 a combination of two quite different factors prompted Richard to launch his radical innovation. One was that he faced major expense if he was to upgrade the dairy farming enterprise which then dominated his farm; the other, that the Bottle Green Drinks company, which makes elderflower cordial and other soft beverages in the neighbouring village of South Woodchester, was looking for somebody to grow its raw material.

Until then, Bottle Green had relied on wild supplies of elderflowers, and during each short season, for a few weeks in May and June, had launched an army of several hundred pickers into the surrounding countryside, paying £1 per pound for good flowers brought in. This method produced an adequate harvest, but it also provoked irritation among landowners who saw strangers raiding their hedges and smashing down the bushes, often without asking permission. Another drawback was that the company could not call its products organic, because there was always a chance that some of the flowers might have been contaminated by fall-out from road traffic or agricultural sprays.

Bottle Green, then, were keen to find a regular supplier, and when Richard offered the use of his land. the two decided on a joint venture. Having sold his dairy herd, Richard set out to research the strange plant on which he proposed to base his future. He learnt that human beings had used elder at least since Roman times, and that the shrub had an ambivalent reputation. Known as a freof dung-heaps and churchyards, because it likes rich let himself in for Every one of the soil, elder was credited with strong Dutch saplings died, as did 2,000 of medicinal powers, and also with the the home stock. Grass and weeds ability to ward off evil. In Victorian threatened to overwhelm the surtimes the drivers of hearses carried whips with handles made of elder-

wood, to keep the devil at bay. ambiguities: the flowers smell of to organic methods, mulching the honey, and the leaves of mice; the plants with straw and manure. Now white pith inside young branches is the lightest natural substance loose among the rows, as living



Richard Kelly and his experimental elder crop

Christopher Jones

Respect your elders

known to man, but mature wood is as hard and heavy as ebony.

Folklore was one thing, the plants themselves quite another. In his search for 30,000 bushes Richard cleaned out most of the nurseries in England, Waies and Scotland, and had to go to Holland for his last 5,000. Having conducted soil tests, he set out his plantation in rows aligned north and south, with the bushes at 3-metre intervals, and sat back to watch them grow.

viving plants: an experiment with chemical herbicides on a trial plot showed that any elder touched by The plant itself embodies many the spray collapsed; so he reverted he hopes to use free-range chickens.

weed-controllers and providers of

"We thought elder was a pioneer species that would grow like a weed anywhere," he says. "But we've realised now that it's a sensitive plant, which needs good soil, a lot of light, and shelter from the wind." Last year he and his helpers ap-

plied 700 tons of manure, forking it by hand from trailers. Badgers, at-

tracted by worms and slugs under made them grow many more stems the straw, began digging up the roots; voles joined in the subterranean attack, and roebucks from the adjoining woods frayed the springy stems with their antlers. Pigeons pecked out the flower buds, and

cuckoo-spit invaded new shoots. So the plantations are patchy but in the best areas the bushes look wonderful. Frequent pruning has manure has given them luxuriant foliage, and flowers 8in or 10in across. This year's harvest is small, but Richard has always reckoned that he would not get his first full crop until the year 2000.

He remains agog to see what the

down, weighs about 21/2 lb, and calculating on the basis of a wild elder of roughly the size that he hopes his bushes will reach, he reckons that each should produce between 4lb and 9lb a year, for up to 30 years. If all goes well, gross income could be as high as £80,000 per annum.

When the farm enters full proplantation's yield will amount to. A duction, the itinerant, seasonal pickbucketful of flowers, not pressed ers will work it, instead of despoiling

should fulfil all the needs of Bottle Green, even though the company has expanded fast, with recent sales to Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.

One remaining challenge is to find a use for the dark berries that ripen in the autumn if flowers are left. "We've looked at elderberry cordial, which sounds like something that should sell," says Kit Morris, one of Bottle Green's founders. "But in fact the juice has a lot of tannin and colour and not much else.' In preparing his Spiced Berry Cordial, he soon decided that "the less elderberry in it, the better", and

ended up using a blackcurrant base. Yet out on the farm Richard remains hopeful of creating a second product from his bushes: he recently heard that the berries contain as much protein as eggs, and the gleam in his eye is that he may be on to a source of cheap protein for Third World countries.

NATURE WATCH

Many people, finding Bambi apparently abandoned, make the mistake of stroking the

creature, or - worse still - picking it up. Any

such handling may seriously damage its

chances of survival, for when the mother re-

MOST SPECIES of deer give birth during the month of June, and by now there are thousands of fallow fawns, red and sika calves and roe kids dotted about the countryside, only a few days old. Mothers make a habit of leaving their offspring in what they consider safe places while they themselves go off to graze; thus it is com-mon to see a fawn curled round in a ball and lying by itself in the undergrowth.

turns, she may be so put off by the smell of humans that she rejects her baby. The moral is, therefore: leave well alone.

One form of protection from predators is that

Yet in farmland the same habit can be lethal, especially for roe deer, which tend to leave their kids in silage crops where all too often they are cut to pieces by forage harvesters.

newborn deer have practically no scent. An-

other defence is immobility: by lying still in deep

grass or bracken, a fawn can escape detection

by foxes or (in the Scottish Highlands) eagles.

DUFF HART-DAVIS

A rendezvous with the bad boys of rock

Weekend walk On Midsummer's Eve, the Rollrights are a suitably pixified destination. By Catherine Stebbings

ripening crops is almost overpow-ering as midsummer approaches. But there are other energies at work around this time, particularly if you make for some of Britain's ancient sites. Take the Rollright Stones in Oxfordshire, for instance. A fairly strenuous walk here takes you across a landscape steeped in folklore and superstition.

Start in Long Compton, a pleasant village sadly divided by a busy main road. From the Red Lion Hotel walk northwards towards the church and turn left through a couple of gates beside the school. Follow the cow tracks across the field, through another gate and cross a further field through a metal gate beside a noisy smallholding full of

chickens and barking dogs. Jink left and right following a road until it peters into a well-marked track which climbs slowly towards the ridge. Go over the stile at the top and follow the arrows marked Macmillan Way, continuing in the same direction across pastures grazed by a spectacular herd of Jer-

Head towards the farm in the distance and take the higher gate out of the field, skirting around the barns before taking a well-worn path straight across a field in the direction of a water tower. This will bring you on to a road where you turn left. There are lovely views from here as the little hedged fields,

THE SCENT of cow parsley elder and copses and rolling hills fade into the

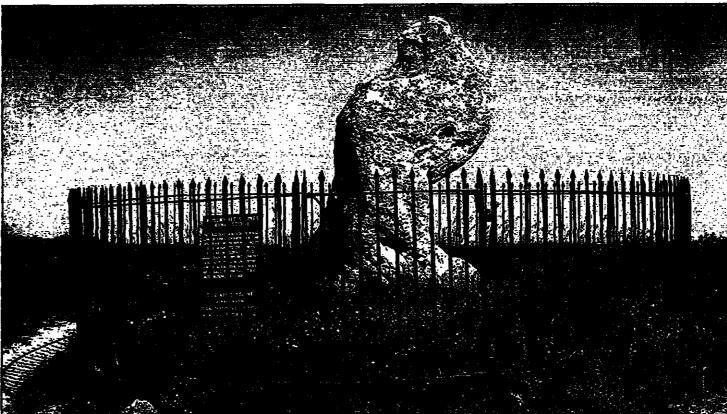
Continue down the road until you hit a T-junction where you go straight across and join the farm track descending into the valley. As the track veers right follow the foot-path through a lush field of wheat to the hamlet of Little Rollright. The simple square bell-tower of the enchanting 15th-century church dominates this group of medieval

Follow the track past the Old Rectory and the Manor House with terraced lawns. As the track bends left follow the signed footpath back up the hill through more waist-high

As the path meets the road you can choose to continue across the fields towards Great Rollright, following the well-worn path opposite: this will give you a view of the Rollright Stones. However, for the only entrance to the stones you must turn left then right along the road, adding

an extra mile to the walk. The stones are steeped in mystery. No one really knows why they are here but they definitely date back to the Bronze Age. They are situated on strong ley lines and are regularly visited by healers and dowsers. They provide a forum for pagan, mystic, occult and other cel-

ebrations throughout the year. The legend is that a king and his men were turned to stone by a debut try to count them and you will witch. A group of knights conspiring be unlikely to come up with the same



Rollright - legend has it that a king and his men were turned to stone here

in the background met the same fate. The result is the three main sites known as the King's Men, the King Stone and the Whispering Knights.

Start at the King's Men, a ceremonial stone circle dated c2500-2000 BC. There are around 70 gnarled and pitted stones in this cir-

number twice; touch them and some are warm, some cold. Hire a dowser for 30p and search for the pull of the ley lines or simply re-energise yourself for the rest of the walk. If you drop in on Midsummer's Eve, rumour has it you may find a group of witches around a bonfire in the

Across the road is the large mis- hedgerows the King will move his

shapen King's Stone. There are so many legends surrounding this, they make Midsummer's Eve sound like quite a party. Young girls who press their breasts against the stone at midnight will be guaranteed fertility and if they listen to the stone they will learn their future. If anyone dares to cut the elder in the

head as the elder begins to bleed. At midnight the King joins his men for a dance and a drink until petrified

once more by the morning sun. A little further down the road, turn right into a field and follow the path to the Whispering Knights, a group of five large stones set on the edge

Picking up the trail of the walk

again, head back to the road and continue along it until you meet the busy main road. Turn right and then left after 50 yards up some steep steps carved out of the bank.

From here, follow the overgrown path through fields of rape and wheat. The track eventually meets the road into Great Rollright; turn right and after quarter of a mile turn left through a mature spinney of beech trees, following the bridleway around the right hand edge of the

Bear right across the road (or turn left here if you need refreshments at Wyatts Farm shop 400 yds away) and walk across the rich pastureland ahead. Beyond the patch-work of fields and hedges of the

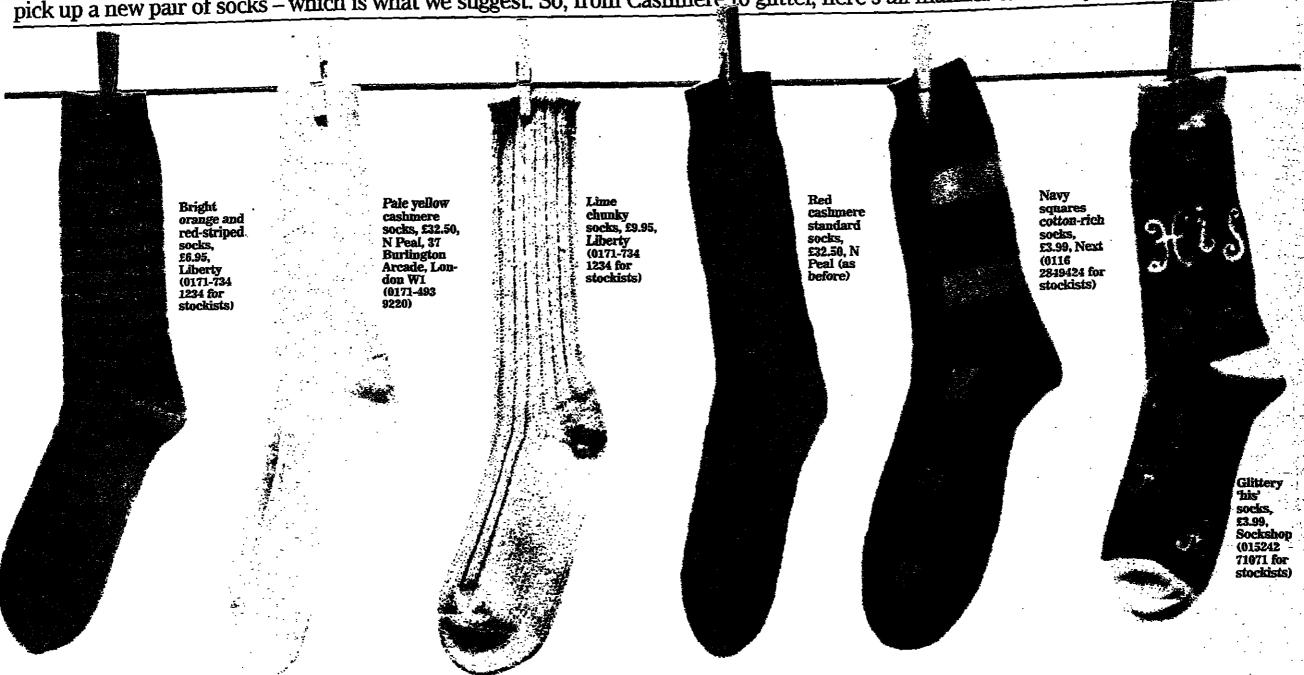
valley you will see Long Compton. Keep going through a couple of gates and straight down following the bridleway signs. This is a glorious walk past magnificent milking herds chewing the cud. A small brook follows the course of the hedgerow encouraging a splash of colourful fauna along its banks.

Zig-zagging along the edge of the field the track takes you right and then left over a little footbridge and back uphill past some ageing oak trees to a farm track. Turn left and follow this for one and a half miles into Long Compton. Follow the road past pretty rose-clad cottages and impressive houses to the church, if only to admire the thatched lychgate. Return southwards through the village back to the Red Lion.

Length about nine miles over gentle hills along some fairly overgrown footpaths. Ordnance Survey Maps: Landranger 151 and Pathfinder

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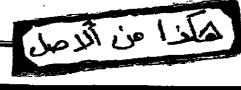
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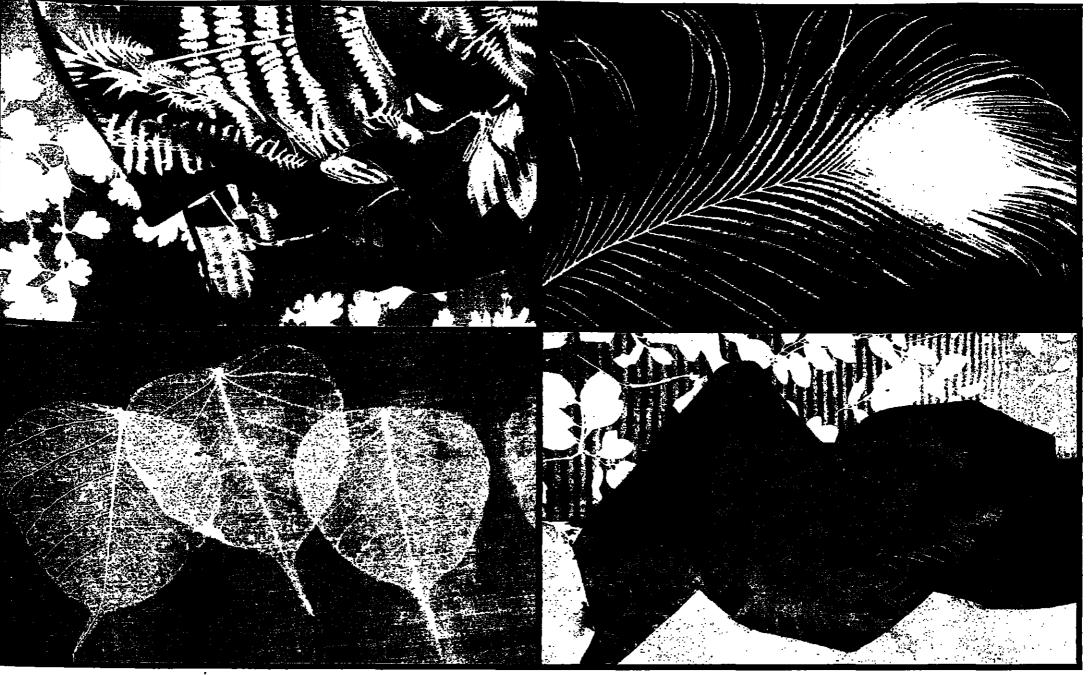
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Bring the garden into your home by scattering a group of these your sofa (shown below centre)

Out of the blue

THE WEATHERMEN promised a heat-wave this weekend but if, as you read this, it starts to pour, spare a thought not just for those whose barbecues are about to be ruined, but also for the textile lesigner Barbara Jones.

For most of us, this summer's egular bursts of torrential rain rave been nothing more than depressingly predictable, but for Iones, whose extraordinarily beauiful fabrics can be created only with he help of the sun, work stops every time the heavens so much as pit. A bad month weatherwise, and he can find herself seriously behind

il am on permanent weather there is an an arrangement and a second secon ny first orders came through last Christmas - Selfridges wanted round 30 of my cushions - and I ras tuck in the garden in January. t was freezing cold and overcast, und my designs were taking hours ather than minutes to develop."

Jones is unusual among textile lesigners in that she does not work in paper, her tools are not paintrushes, watercolours or pencils. nstead she creates her unique deligns directly on the fabric – without preliminary sketches – using a ittle-used, largely forgotten technque called cyanotype. The reiults are ethereal imprints on a lazzling blue ground, which rereal the texture and beauty of the subject matter in exquisite detail. They are then made into plain-eked cushions with mother-ofsee the launch of some new colourrays - red, plum and aubergine and also the fruits of her collaborition with the fashion design duo paper; thus the imprint of a clema-Elisabeth Mirella, whose clothes are

The designer Barbara Jones depends on sunlight to create her spectacular flower designs directly on to fabric. By Charlotte **Packer**

available at The Cross in London. Cyanotype, invented in 1842, is a photographic process that allows the user to make an imprint of an object by placing it on a surface, usually paper, that has been treated with light-sensitive chemicals. In daylight the chemicals react and turn the exposed area blue, while the space beneath the object remains white. The intensity of the contrast and the speed with which the image is obtained depend both on the strength of the sunlight, and the exposure time. The process is halted and the image fixed by rinscarves (£68-£90). This winter will ing the surface with water. Because flowers are so delicate, the light often passes through, triggering a mild reaction with the tis comes complete with stamen



and variegated stripes along the

"I first came across the method three years ago in an article about on paper. Next she had to work out Victorian ladies making cyanotype images as an amusing way to pass an afternoon," recalls Jones. One woman in particular, Anna Atkins, used this method to produce an entire book of botanical imprints. "I was immediately struck by cyanotype's design potential. I loved the idea of putting plants on a surface, and the design coming directly from them, but I couldn't see how the process could be adapted for use

signer, Jones had moved into jour- a bit like the mad professor, but I'm nalism. "At that point I was deputy not scientific in my methods - I don't editor on International Textiles, a fashion forecasting magazine. So I just filed away the idea for cyanotype." Similarly, her freelance design work was on hold. "The design process for a freelance is quite soulless," she says by way of explanation. "Your agent calls you to discuss the kind of look particular companies are interested in, and then you just run up a mass of tively. I never knew where my work would end up. Last month, when I was in New York, I spotted something I'd designed ages ago."

But after seven years spent predicting trends and promoting design, Jones finally convinced herself that she should be doing what she was only writing about. "People would come in with their portfolios hoping to get some coverage and often I would think, I want to be doing this', and occasionally, 'I could be doing this, and better!"

It was then that Anna Atkins and her cyanotypes came back to Jones. Not much had been written about

and error before she had successfully produced a cyanotype image how to apply the method to fine silks and linens, and much time was spent juggling different quantities of chemicals and experimenting with drying methods. As far as she is aware she is currently the only person working in cyanotype on cloth. Her cellar is now kitted-out with a complex arrangement of suspended drying-frames, and she has even invented a stretcher to secure the feathers, leaves and seedheads to her silks during the really time anything," she says.

the process, so it took research, trial

As well as teaching herself the principles of early photography, Jones has had to get to grips with gardening and, in particular, how to get hold of flowers in midwinter.
"Tve started to plant my garden based around what I know I will need." She says. "But the real problem comes with the samples. If I show buyers the samples made in samples that are sent out specula- the summer, the flowers are not available when the orders come through in the winter." She has just planted lots of winter jasmine and variegated ivy, but the big question is how she'll beat the clematis shortage that she's sure to be facing later this year.

> Barbara Jones can be contacted on 0171-681 6010. Her work can be seen at the Cockpit Arts Summer Festival open studio event at Cockpit Yard, Northington Street, WC1, 26-27 June, 12pm-8pm, and 28 June, 12pm-6pm, admission £2.50, and at Selfridges (0171-629 1234) and The Cross (0171-727 6760).

Fabric fans paint without brushes

filtered through the open windows that looked out on to a beautiful English garden filled with flowers. In this peaceful setting of an old Sussex rectory, a group of stu-dents sat down for the first day's tuition of a weekend course in

fabric painting.
Tutor Mary Fortune surprised them all when she told them to put away the paint brushes. "Today," she said. "Is Blue Peter day. We are going to experiment by making designs on fabric with a whole range of implements to create some surprising effects. But we won't be using brushes."

Each student had a piece of fabric - usually calico - pinned to a wooden frame and was told to mix a good, dark colour on the paint palettes. Then Mary distributed each of them with a piece of card. a cotton wool bud, a cocktail stick,

THE STRAINS of chamber music a cork, a small sponge, a knotted piece of fabric and some pieces of polystyrene and corrugated paper.

In turn each of these was dipped into the paint and used to make marks on the fabric. Eva McCart ney, from London, has exhibited some of her work and she showed her experience with this technique by using the different marks to create a complete picture, showing how easy it is to paint designs on fabric without recourse to a brush.

Jean Brown, from Hampshire, had chosen to learn about fabric painting on this weekend residen-tial course because she found it more challenging than silk painting "You have total control over the texture and effects on the fabric and there is so much variety in what you can achieve."

Every half-an-hour, Mary demonstrated a different technique to create designs on the fabric,

There are so many ways to produce stunning effects on

fabric, and a course can show you how. By Sally Staples

wood blocks and stencilling and how to apply colour. First, she cut out several flower shapes from card with a craft knife to use as templates. Next came the application of paint using one of the spray-

This is done by loading an old toothbrush with paint and using the thumb to flick the paint to produce an evenly distributed layer of colour which gives a stippled effect. Too much paint causes blobs - the art of thumb-flicking is more complex than it looks.

The alternative to the toothbrush technique is using the mouth diffuser For this demonstration,

showing the students how to use everyone trooped outside to watch imprint. To enhance the effect, the Mary in action. It is important to blow the paint straight on to the fabric and not at an angle. Check the wind direction before you try this one at home.

Mary pinned a selection of geranium leaves to her fabric and positioned the frame against a tree. Then she knelt directly opposite the fabric and positioned the mouth diffuser about six inches from the screen, with one end in the paint pot and the other in her mouth. The idea is to blow paint evenly across the fabric, and Mary used first red, then blue, to produce a mottled purple background. When the leaves were unpinned they left a perfect

leaves were pinned back in slightly different places, overlapping here and there, and paint was ap-plied again to give different depths of colour and texture to the leaf pattern. The paint needs to be slightly diluted for this exercise as it may otherwise clog - and the sprayer

needs plenty of puff. Most of the students on the course at the Old Rectory wanted to produce small pictures and wall hangings for home and for presents. Others liked to combine what they learned from fabric printing with quilting to produce cushion covers and other decorative pieces.

Ailie Findlay, from Richmond in

Surrey, has always enjoyed quilting but until now had been frightened of using colour. "Twe learnt so much today about mixing colours. I've found some of the techniques irritating, provoking and even mad-dening, but I'll be in the studio till late tonight practising."

Some of Mary's own work shows fused into one. A selection of kitchen cushion covers showed how she had used cross sections of peppers, onions, apples and pears as a printing block and then quilted the material.

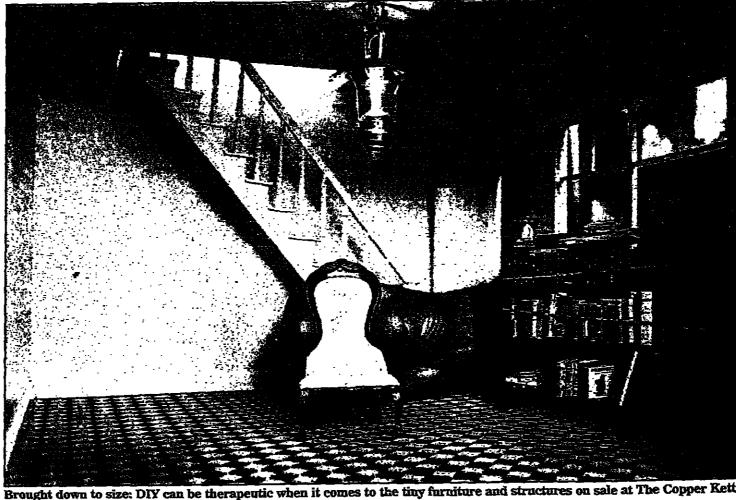
"You can apply sequins on to cal-ico, you can print with little wooden blocks, stencil with leaves, print with potatoes to get the effect you want. You can paint calico and then sew silk organza over the top and weave in some beads for a pretty wall hanging. I enjoy encouraging students to experiment a bit and it is quite interesting how southerners seem to be more willing to play around in the abstract than northerners.

"In my teaching experience I've noticed that students from the north want to produce something specific. They want to take a picture home to show their husbands what how different disciplines can be a they have been doing. Perhaps it's practicality versus fantasy, but the contrast is interesting.

> Mary Fortune has a City and Guilds qualification in creative studies and is a member of the Embroiderers and Quilters Guild. She also teaches at the Women's Institute residential college in Oxfordshire. Her weekend course at the Old Rectory adult education college in Fittleworth, near Pulborough, Sussex (01798-865306) costs from £95 for non-residents to £119. All meals are provided in the price.



From Swiss chalet to stately home, the sky's the limit in the growing market of doll's house collecting. Rhiannon Batten discovers that the miniature property game is a battlefield of competing buyers



Brought down to size: DIY can be therapeutic when it comes to the tiny furniture and structures on sale at The Copper Kettle doll's house shop in Epsom (above and below)

The Lilliputian jungle

room house, fully furnished and adapted according to Feng Shui, close to Tube and amenities. Zen garden and swimming-pool. Price 25,500. Too good to be true? It is. Or. rather, too small to be true, because this is a description of a doll's house currently on sale at the London Doll's House Company (29 Covent Garden Market, London, 0171-240 8681). A price of £5,500 for your dream house is par for the course to the modern doll's house collector and keeping up with the Joneses is an expensive business in Lilliput

The striking thing about the mod-ern world of doll's house collecting is that it is not merely a pleasant children's pastime, based on a ramshackle building knocked up by your grandad, or a home-made effort put together clumsily with egg cartons, and sticky-back plastic. Neither is it just a place where battered old animals and cartoon characters have parties on the roof or park their

with doll's houses is no longer just maining houses are treasured for a game for the kids. Of course, children do still play with doll's houses and pester their parents for a miniature home of their own before forgetting about it a few months century houses were made by cardown the line. But, the pastime is enjoying a boom with grown-ups, too. If proof were needed that adults have just as much miniature fun as children, go to The Dolls House (Market Place, Northleach, near suburban home.

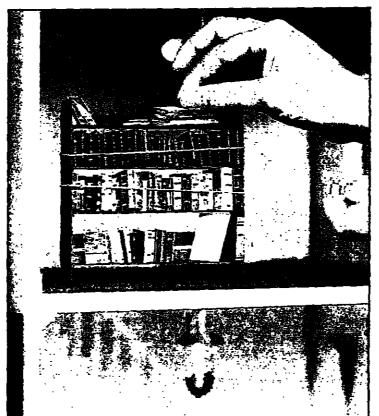
rand-new one-bed- Cheltenham, 01451 860431), tucked away in the Cotswolds.

Opened originally in Covent Gar-den in 1971, this was the first specialist doll's house shop in England and it now sells a range of handmade houses, including a £980 stone cottage which matches the local Cotswold stone. Since the shop first opened, the industry has mush-

Now there are doll's house fairs every weekend somewhere in the country, over a hundred specialist shops and four specialist magazínes available at most newsagents. Michael Morse, who runs The Doll's House, suggests that the description of doll's houses should really be changed to "toy houses" since people of all ages and all genders collect them.

Of course, the appeal to adults is nothing new. Amongst the 51 doll's houses on display at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood is a very rare German one made in Nuremberg in 1673, according to the date on the chimney. Nuremberg miniature cars in the sitting room. house manufacture in the 17th and It seems, rather, that playing 18th centuries and these rare reproviding records of domestic life.

Many were expensive toys depenters specifically for adults to play with. One of the houses on display is a cleverly-disguised writing desk and another is Mr Theobald's house, a perfect replica of a Thirties



What has become apparent is the competitive nature of doll's house collecting, with increasingly sophisticated designs and accessories all pushing themselves on the collector's shopping list.

Although their most popular doll's house (the Richmond - a Georgian House with six rooms for £450) is still very much in keeping with the traditional idea of what a doll's house should look like, the Singing Tree (69

4527) catalogue now includes formtains, gardens and conservatories. Country types can even get a range of scaled-down Aga cookers. Likewise. Gable End Design (190 Station Road, Knowle, 01564 777607), alongside their standard doll's houses, will design a detailed miniature replica of your own home, from \$2,000, or self you a speciality design. Their clapboarded "Shaker" style house with fully working sash windows. \$2,950. or the end-of-war Arcon MkV Prefab. 2960, are probably their most unusual houses and these are also available in kit form or even as just a set of plans for keen miniature-DIY enthusiasts.

So where do you go for inspiration apart from the specialist doll's house shops? Most enthusiasts go to the Miniature Fair held at the NEC in March and September.

However, possibly the most impressive doll's house in the country. Queen Mary's doll's House, is on public display at Windsor Castle and any potential enthusiast should ev a visit. Designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and presented to Queen Mary, wife of George V. to help raise money for charity, the Doll's House is a miracle of minuscule engineering, with electric lights, a water system and two working lifts. it is a model of a Twenties mansion - albeit with little crown jewels rather improbably locked up in the butler's strong room above the pantry. There is even real wine in the miniature bottles in the cellar.

Clockwise

mosquito,

Gardeners'

Burnsticks

and Colibri

Repellent

Incense

Electric

Sticks.

Right:

Insect

Merlin's

Outdoor

Lamp,

Insect

from top

left:

New King's Road, London, 0171 736 doll's house of your own, you can start a collection for 50p with miniatures from the Pollock's Toy Museum shop (1 Scala Street, London, 0171-636 3452), or go to the other end of the scale with a visit to Switzerland. In the land of the chalet, old doll's houses are so sought after that they are rarely for sale - and then only at auction

> However, between 14 and 18 September this year there is a doll's house sale, organised by Christie's (0171 581 7611) at Schloss Herblingen where toy kitchens, room settings and dolls - all part of a large house sale - will go under the hammer. The collection will include a wide variety of tea sets, some of Wedgwood, expected to fetch an affordable, if slightly ludicrous, £300-£400 each. But, for investments closer to home, contact Tridias Ltd: The branch at 124 Walcot Street, Bath (01225 469455) has a specialist service whereby collectors can get advice on everything from different houses to furniture to the top British doll's house craftsmen.

Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. Cambridge Heath Road, London (0181 980 2415) is open from 10am to 5.50pm Monday to Thursday and Saturday (it is closed on Fridays), and from 2.30 to 5.50pm on A social document rather than a toy. Sundays. Entrance is free, although donations are welcome. Windsor Castle (01753 868286) is

open daily from 10am to 5.30pm (last admission 4pm) and a ticket, which includes entrance to the Doll's House, costs £9.50 for adults If you emerge full of ideas for a and £5 for children.

Tables for tiny houses

THERE ARE rarely any children in the Copper Kettle in Epsom, Sucrey, despite the fact that this shop sells doll's houses and a huge variety of furniture to fit in creations as diverse as a miniature butcher's shop and a 300-year-old manor-house. This is strictly for the grown-ups, whose DIY skills may be thwarted in their own home but whose imagination can run riot inside a doll's house.

"I think many people start making and furnishing a doll's house for therapy," explains the manage Linda McCarney, who has run the business with her mother, May Homewood, for the last five years.

"Men who are made redundant or are recovering from a spell of it health can gain a great deal of pleasure build ing one of our kits. And many of the women have made the concept into a favourite hobby. It is a form of escapism for lots of people - and it's bet-ter than watching the TV."

Certainly the Copper Kettle can provide anything you need for a dails'

house. Local craftsmen are commissioned to produce some of the tiny items - ali made to exactly one-12th the size of the real thing. One tiny bookcase on display has shelves containing more than 70 posts stamp-sized books.

Tiny King Charles spanie Alsatians and a selection of pundes made from old bits of fur sell at prices between £30 and £100. And if people are furnishing period houses they will think nothing of paying £15 for a miniature pheasant to hang from the game-rack in the kitchen. Characters dressed in 18th- and 19th-century ciothes cost £30 each, while more modern, archetypal favourites include Hilda the cleaning lady complete with mop - and cigarette dangling from her lips.

There are flickering fires, period stoves (£85), a Sheraton four-piece set (E31.95), tiny candelabras, genuine oil-on-canvas paintings (£49), miniature bicycles (£4.50) and a set of four copper saucepans at £2.95. A box of Heinz cans is displayed next to a tiny basket of eggs, and there are even mini walking sticks and tany bottles of red wine on offer.

For the DIY enthusiast there is the opportunity to wire the house for electricity, paper the walls and carpet the floors. The Copper Kettle even sells spindles for making staircase banisters, or you can buy tiny door kinges for 25p, or decorative door knobs for £1.50. Customers can buy kits of an eight-room Georgian town house for £165, a 17thcentury manor-house for £625 or a corner shop for £395. Each will cast an extra £50 if you buy them alread

The Copper Kettle is at 6 East Street, Epsom. Surrey (01372 72 221). Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm. Sundays by appointment.

SALLY STAPLES

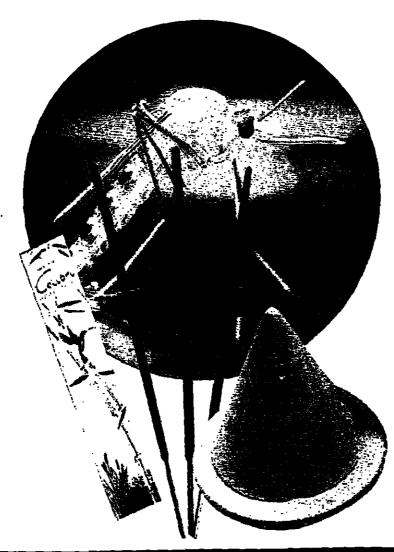
Sprays, repellents, incense, perfumed candles: our guide to the best way of avoiding insect bites

Oils and odours to keep invading insects at bay

IF YOUR dealings with bugs are restricted to outdoor summer evenings in Britain, here are a few ideas for repelling insects that don't require smearing, dabbing or daubing a substance all over you. Start by giving your garden woodwork a coat of Os Colour Gard Brown Ecol, an organic wood stain that repels insects at the same time as protecting the wood. It is based on the woad plant, and costs £21.99 for 2.5 litres from the Burford Garden Company (01993 822502) and specialist paint shops. Once painted. on, this will fend off circling bugs

all summer long. • When you need some extra help, forget old-fashioned coils and greenhouse strips, and instead light insect repellent incense sticks around the garden. Crabtree & Evelyn's (01235 862244) Gardeners' Outdoor Burnsticks cost £10 for 10, or try Colibri insect-repellent incense sticks, from £1.79 at Planet Organic (0171-221 7171). Both will add pleasantly to the outdoor atmosphere.

◆ Alternatively, invest in a Merlin's Lamp, £8.50, and some cade powder, £2.95, from the Conran Shop (0171-589 7401). Make a coil of powder on the saucer, set light to it and, after a few seconds, blow out the flames. Replace the little pyramid lid and leave the lamp to



smoulder away happily on your patio. It will last for about an

◆ Having set the scene with your pyramid, sit back and relax while deterring nocturnal nibblers by lighting some citronella-laced candles. Citronella polygon candles cost £27 from Colour Blue Mail (0171-820 7700 for catalogue and enquiries). Lakeland Limited (01539 488100) has a good range, including Citronella Flower Candles, £1.95, and Citronella Tealights, £2.50 for 10.

 If you are playing away from your own garden, remember to carry protection with you. Crabtree & Evelyn's new outdoor defence towelettes, £5.50 for 10, use lavender, geranium and citronella essential oils to discourage insects, and basil, orange and sweet almond oils to hide the rather pungent smell. Or you could dab some lavender oil, a natural insect-repellent, on to shirt cuffs and hat brims and let the scent waft away hungry insects. A bottle of lavender oil costs £5.25 for 10ml from Norfolk Lavender (01485 570384). Finally, if all else fails, try an electric insect killer, £19.99 from Homebase (0645 801800). This is a portable device which plugs into an electric socket and zaps invading insects with no mercy whatsoever.

RHIANNON BATTEN

Neet solution to a biting problem

FOR MANY travellers, the most unout - where you'll avoid the irritation welcome sound in the world is not the airport public address announcing an indefinite delay, or the final anaemic splutter of a car engine as it expires. The noise usually begins just as you've turned off the light: the first hint of a drone from the mosquito that will make a misery of the rest of your night.

You name it, and a mosquito probably spreads it: malaria, dengue fever, encephalitis – a roll-call of diseases ranging from debilitating to deadly. And even if the insect isn't carrying a disease, you know that the minimum sentence carried by a bite is an itchy few days. So the chorus of advice is to avoid being bitten.

Easily said; harder to achieve. But in somewhere like the Darien Jungle, messily divided between Colombia and Panama, the odds that a mosquito bite could infect you with malaria are so high that meticulous protection is essential

An insect-repellent represents the last (or first) line of defence: a compound that deters the creature from landing and hence biting. But plenty of concoctions marketed as repellents would be jettisoned as excess baggage before I'd even reached the airport. A jar of Vaseline with added insect-repellent, on sale in Zimbabwe, proved utterly ineffectual one miserable Christmas Eve at the Christmas Pass Hotel in the east of the country, when the

The ideal place to buy any kind of alive. repellent is at the airport on the way

الملذا من الاصل

of paying VAT - but the last time I bought some there I was unimpressed. Boot's Repel Plus looks serious but when you read the small print you discover that it contains only 20 per cent Deet, the active ingredient of most repellents. Latin American mosquitoes would scoff at such a dilute solution.

Reliable repellents depend upon strong concentrations. Deet is marketed by the north London travel specialist Nomad (0181-889 7014) in 100 per cent concentration: Neet Deet is the brand name. A similar compound, Repel Plus, is "only" 95 per cent Deet, but proved effective in keeping Darien dangers at bay.

People who prefer naturally occurring mixtures could try Mosi-guard, a citronella-based repellent marketed by the travel health specialist Masta (0891 224100). Bayer has recently developed a new compound, used in its Autan repellent, which I have not yet had a chance to test in the field.

The best way to reduce the amount of repellent you use (besides staying at home with the windows closed) is to cover up. That I survived Darien was partly thanks to Deet, but mainly due to a strange but effective sartorial regime that involved wearing long trousers, long socks and long-sleeved tops for a week. Only my hands, neck and the east of the country, when the mosquitoes decided to dine in style.

The ideal place to have a visit of a country when the mosquitoes decided to dine in style.

SIMON CALDER

game of highs and lows

The art of weather forecasting has turned into an international sport, and the results show just how accurate the science of meteorology has become

HOW ACCURATE is the weather fore-cast? If you look at the daily forecast for Britain, you'll see that more often than not it's more or less correct, at least as far as the temperature is concerned. But looking out of the window and saying "I expect it II be much the same as yesterday" also scores pretty well for accuracy. For midday temperatures in London, "the same as yesterday" is within two degrees of a perfect prediction about 75 per cent of the time.

Where the Meteorological Office really shows its skill is in getting the remaining 25 per cent of days right most of the

The rule for weather forecasting now seems to be that if you can see it coming, you can tell when it will get here and what it will do when it arrives. Until about 20 years ago, this meant, in practice, that weather forecasts were fairly accurate up to 24 hours in advance.

In the past two decades, however, faster computers have been running more and more complex models of the weather, which have extended the accuracy of forecasts considerably. In the late Nineties, forecasts three days ahead are about as accurate as 24-hour forecasts were in the Seventies.

In 1992 Paul James, who was then a student at Reading University, became involved in a series of "Current Weather Games" which turned weather forecasting into a competitive activity. The success of these games led to the idea of a Europewide weather forecasting contest among teams from universities and weather services as well as a few individuals. A set of weather stations would be selected, and the entrants would have to forecast the temperature at each on specified days and times. Points would be awarded for

The first European Weather Challenge began in November 1997 and ran until February 1998. By the third week (the rules made contingencies for late entrants) there were 22 teams making forecasts by poon every Friday of the noon tempera-



WILLIAM HARTSTON

tures on Sunday at each of 10 European locations. Some of the entries were transmitted automatically by computer weather prediction systems; most had human involvement. When the weather data came through on Sunday scores were calculated for each team: full marks for an exact prediction, with one point deducted for each degree discrepancy between forecast and actual temperature, down to zero points for any forecast six degrees out or more. The results of the first competition were as follows:

1. Meteo Consult (Netherlands) 2. Meteotest (Switzerland)

3. Glasgow Forecasters

4. Thomas Globig (Düsseldorf) 5. Meteo Self-service (Belgium) 6. Meteofax-Wetterdienste (Berlin) 600

7. Jürgen Schmidt (Ingelheim) 8. Yunet Weather Team (Belgrade) 576 9. Jozef Ilko (Bratislava) 10. Goethe University (Frankfurt) 557

11. Weatherscape (Munich) 12. Hungarian Weather Forecast Troposphärenforschung Leipzig 511

14. C Tykskov (Copenhagen) 15. Ioannina Met Lab (Greece) 16. Birmingham University 17. Atmosphärenphysik Inst

18. Graham Danby (UK)

With a maximum of 60 points on offer for each of the 12 weeks the competition ran, the theoretical maximum was 720 points. In other words, the winning team dropped only 115 points in making 120 predictions. Their average prediction was less than a degree out.

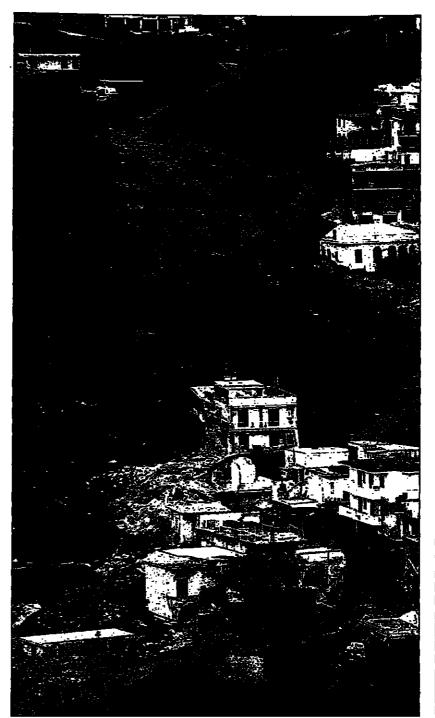
More important, however, was the general measure of predictive success compared with the benchmark of a "much the same as the day before yesterday" prediction of Sunday's weather. This "persistence forecast" would have scored only 465 points in total - worse than any of the competition entrants.

The second European Weather Chalenge competition, now run from Munich University by Paul James and Michael Sachweh, has just finished in a resounding victory for the Yunet Weather Team from Belgrade, ahead of the Swiss Meteotest team and Meteo Consult of Wageningen in The Netherlands. The Dutch team was perhaps most impressive of all, because after winning the first competition, they added to the challenge by sending in their entries a day early for the second one. Curiously enough, the Meteotest (Thursday) entries proved to be more accurate than those submitted by the same organisation a day later.

The organisers now plan a series of mini-tournaments over the summer, before the third full contest begins in the autumn. After the success of the first two contests, they hope to extend the concept in a way that will require entrants to forecast not only the temperature but also the weekend totals of rainfall and sunshine.

The whole idea of turning weather forecasting into a competitive sport is greatly to be welcomed, not only for the fun it provides but also because it gives, for the first time, an objective measure of the accuracy of forecasting techniques and a way to compare one group of forecasters with another.

Perhaps the various European television weather services might get together to take the event to a higher level still: a Eurovision weather contest is just what we need to cheer up these drizzly



Could last week's mudslides in Spain have been predicted?

PANDORA MELLY

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Roger Dean, 53, artist and designer

When I was a child, we travelled a lot because my father was in the Army . I went to 16 different schools, and my brother went to 18. He's younger than me, so I don't know how that happened. We never really thought of the Army houses as home, but we'd sometimes stay at my grandmother's house in

I used to love going there. She'd wake us up in the middle of the night for a game of cards and a picnic, which would be things like fried egg on toast. That used to seem like heaven. Then we'd play cribbage or Russian whist.

When I played games at school, I'd go flat out to win, but at my grandmother's I couldn't bear her losing. In terms of games, that was really the highlight for me.

I think games are like a meal. It's much more than eating, which can be achieved just slouching in front of the TV and stuffing your face. The thing about a meal is that you're usually sitting round a table and talking to peo-

Computer games aren't like that, are they? You play them on your own. A long time ago, I designed the logo and packaging for a computer games company. The directors would ring me up after a new game had come out and say, "What do you think of the dragon?"

I'd ask: "What dragon?" and they'd say, "We animated your dragon. You'll see it when you get past level seven." Level seven? I always thought it was a triumph if I could get beyond the

A really perfect game needs a cold, rainy day so you can justify lighting a fire. No television; nothing to be done for a serious amount of time; then almost any game will do.

Roger Deam's record covers for the rock band Yes broke new ground in the Seventies. He is currently developing an interactive computer game called Secret of the Black Onyx, which is set in Viking Russia in the 10th century. Magnetic Storm's Secret of the Black Onyx features music by Youth and Jaz Coleman, and a guest appearance by Yes guitarist Steve Howe. The release date will be early next year.

CONFESSIONS OF A PUZZLE MASTER

CHRIS MASLANKA TURNS FROM SETTER TO SOLVER

HAVING SPENT so many years devising puzzles for others to solve, I had all but lost the knack of solving them myself. It's one thing to devise at leisure cruel mindtraps for others to blunder into; quite another to volunteer to wander blindfold into a minefield of them and attempt to defuse the lot within one half hour of Radio 4's Puzzle Panel. I would be up against some of the sharpest minds in the business. What had I let myself in for?

Harry Parker, the programme's pro-Licer, had stressed from the outset that I should not know the questions in advance. Oh, it made sense. We were laying bare the thinking process. Hadn't I rabbited on, bout how it was the licence to make mis akes that made puzzles such a useful cognitive aid? Mistakes were learning opportunities. Me and my big mouth.

As I ran a critical eye over the panellists in the first edition of the programme, doubts crept in. Take the much-travelled but completely unbattered Professor David Singmaster, visiting professor at South Bank University, London, who wrote the

first guide to solving Rubik's cube. If memory serves, Dylan in one of his songs is asked by Kennedy: "My friend Bob, what do we need to make the country grow?" Dylan answers "Brigitte Bardot". When in an as-yet-unwritten song Tony Blair rings me and says, "My friend Chris, what do we need to make maths awareness grow?" I'll answer: "A small band of itinerant Singmasters". His ability to communicate enthusiasm for maths makes him a more valuable educational tool than all the library vans in the universe.

How on earth was I going to fool someone whose compendious knowledge contained the lineage of every puzzle ever devised? And if I succeeded, would he thank me for doing it on network radio? It took him only a minute to defuse the horological horror I posed the panel:

Q1: A man wears two watches, one gaining, one losing a minute per hour. When the two watches first agree it will be time for Puzzle Panel to start (1.30 pm Thursday). How long before that were they synchronised?

Professor Angela Newing, director of medical physics for Gloucestershire, then set us - as befits a campanologist - a combinatorial puzzle.

Q2: In each of four dances, Alan, Bob, Chas and Dave danced with one of Erica, Fiona, Gloria and Helen. No man danced with any girl twice. In the first dance Bob danced with Erica, and Dave with Fiona. In the second Alan danced with Gloria. In the third Dave danced with Erica. Who danced with whom in like an old sock. Once I'd written in the the fourth dance?

Those logicky things, where you deduce from apparently irrelevant snippets of data answers to such riveting questions as "What was the name of the engine driver?" - they aren't real puzzles, I thought. It was just a question of exhausting the possibilities before they exhausted you. Where's the skill and insight in that? A mere computer could crunch through thousands of them before you could find the off switch. But the panel was already busy solving, so I grudgingly set to work.

Luckily for me I happened to draw out my 4x4 grid as shown (1-4 stand for the dances and E-G the girls' names). A, B, C & D need inscribing once per line and once per row. To my amazement it unravelled start-up information the remaining letters practically dropped into place. The symmetry enabled me to steal a march on one of the panellists, whose grid looked like this:

Fresh from the Eureka-ish buzz of being of puzzle I'd always shunned, I was due anjust made me thrash around more.

other object lesson in experiential learning. Pride ever goeth before a fall, the fall in this case being at the hands of a former chess champion of Great Britain. Bill Hartston is the sort of chap who knows (among many many other things) that ants have five noses. His puzzle turned out to be of the five-noser variety.

Q3: In what context (the bounder asked), had he come across the following list the previous evening: LIST, HANDY, ZUCCHINI, STUBBIER, VIVIDLY, BRAHMA, PERGOLAS. Recognising Liszt and Handy (as in the

father of the Blues) I blurted out "musicians", only to dismiss it out of hand at once. ZUCCHINI?! Had he written The Magic Fruit? It must be a Hartstonian bluff. Would he have started a list with LIST and HANDY if it were a list of musicians?

Having once yielded to that assumption (it seemed plausible at the time) all further lifelines thrown me - "You can have PECAN instead of ZUCCHINI" but not first past the post, and conquering a type both" and "You can add BAH to the list"

Everyone else got there ahead of me. As I limped ashore kicking myself for making unnecessary assumptions, I noted with chagrin that I'd hit upon the answer right at the start but hadn't had the wit to realise

1. 15 days before. [If one gains a minute an hour and the other loses a minute an hour, they take 6 hours to accumulate a 12 hour difference and be back in synch again. The number of minutes in 6 hours is 360. That many hours is 15 days. But what if it had been a 24-hour clock?]

2. Filling in either grid leads to the conclusion that in the fourth dance A danced with E, C with F, D with G and B with H. 3. They were composers' names all right: Liszt, Haydn, Puccini, Schubert, Vivaldi, Brahms, Pergolesi - but passed

through a spellchecker. Grrrrroan!

Chris Maslanka's "Puzzle Panel" is broadcast every Thursday on Radio 4 at 1.30pm, and repeated on Sundays at 11pm.

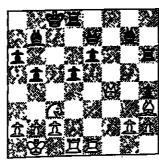
CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

IT'S QUIET moves that win games, not brutal ones. Look at the diagram position, from Garry Kasparov's game with White against Vassily Ivanchuk in the "Frankfurt Chess Classic 98" Rapid Play event. It is White to play and he has a number of tempting combinational possibilities.

White should consider 1.Rxe6 Rxe6 2.Re1 Rd6, when even 3.Qxd6 Qxd6 4.Rxe6 is worth looking at. After 4...Qxh2, however, Black's queen is well hidden from the rook's aggression. There is also 1.Qxh6!? Bxh6 2.Rxe6. Where does the queen hide now? Anywhere she goes, the rook will be able to attack her with a discovered check. It looks promising, but after 2...Qg5 3.Re5+ Kc7 4.Rxg5 Bxg5, Black's bishop pair gives him every chance of saving the

With such temptations on offer, it was perhaps a surprise that Kasparov settled for 1.23, but the continuation of the game made it clear that he knew what he was doing. There followed 1...Rg6 2.Bxe6+! Rxe6 3.Qg4 Rd6 4.Rxe6 Qxe6 (or 4...Rxe6 5.Re1 Kd7 5.Rxe6 Qxe6 6.Qxg7+) 5.Qxg7 and White won with his

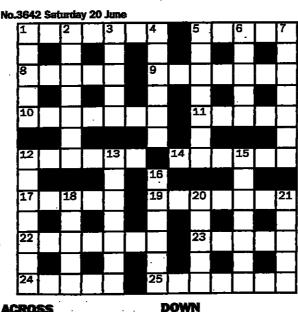
extra pawn. But where does 1.a3 fit into all this? Just look at the position after 5.Qxg7 and you will see that if White had not played 23, then Black would be able to ight his way back into the ame with ...d4. White could not then take the pawn because dixd4? would lead to mate after }⊋e1+.



The real question is whether, after 1.43, Black had anything better than Rg6. His king cannot move off the h3-c8 diagonal but 1...Bc6 might have been an improvement. Black's position is precarious, but I do not see an immediate way to kill him, though White can always go back to an improved version of the Qxh6 combination if all else fails. Here are the full moves of

<u>то</u> 8	
Riock: Vass	ry Kasparov sily Ivanchuk furt 1998
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bg5 e6	19 Bg4 h5 20 Bh3 h4 21 Qf4 Bg7 22 Rhe1 Rh6 23 a3 Rg6 24 Bxe6+ Rxe
7 Qd2 a6 8 0-0-0 Be7 9 f4 Nxd4 10 Qxd4 b5 11 Bxf6 gxf6 12 e5 d5 13 Kb1 Bb7 14 f5 fxe5 15 Qxe5 Bf6 16 Qg3 Qe7 17 fxe6 fxe6	25 Qg4 Rd6 26 Rxe6 Qxe6 27 Qxg7 Qf6 28 Qg4+ Kb8 29 Rd4 Re6 30 Qxh4 Qf1+ 31 Ka2 Qxg2 32 Rg4 Qf1 33 Rg8+ Ka7 34 Qd4+ Rb6 35 Nxd5 1-0
17 DEB 1200	_

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Hampshire town (7) Somptuous meal (5) Call on (5) Bounty (7)

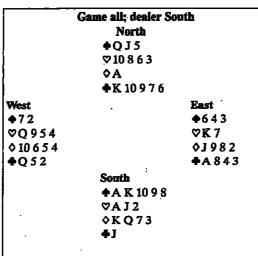
10 French pilgrimage shrine 11 Asian country (5) 12 Ripe (6) 14 Disregard (6) 17 Regulations (5) 19 Let-up (7) 22 Impure (7) 23 Small non-rigid airship 24 Perfume (5)

Disturb (7) Exercised democratic right (5) Savour (6) Agriculture (7) Forwards (5) With a will? (7) 12 Nobleman (7) Regard (7) 15 Considered view (7) 16 King's son (6) 18 Sordid gain (5) 20 Sword (5) 21 Drive out (5)

Metal block (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Homer, 4 Genius (Homogeneous), 9 Terrier, 10 Idaho, 11 Onyx, 12 Surmise, 13 Oak, 14 Bomb, 16 Tuna, 18 Bye, 20 Arbiter, 21 Lama, 24 Artic, 25 Baggipe, 26 Silver, 27 Equip. DOWN: 1 Hot-pot, 2 Marry, 3 Raid, 5 Emigrate, 6 Italian, 7 Shower, 8 Brisk, 13 Obstacle, 15 Orbital, 17 Salads, 18 Bribe, 19 Make-up, 22 Adieu, 23 Ague.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



THE ARCANE art of making "impossible" contracts is, not unnaturally, mastered by only a few declarers. See if you can spot a possible way of bamboozling the op-ponents on this deal after you have reached Six Spades and have been greeted by a lead of ♥4 to the

South opened One Spade, North responded Two Clubs, and South rebid Two Diamonds. North gave jump preference to Three Spades, Blackwood revealed a missing ace, but South plunged on to Six Spades. After winning the first trick with ♥A, prospects looked abysmal but declarer had the bright idea of returning ♥2 West looked at this suspiciously but it seemed to him

impossible that South could play like this, inviting an immediate ruff, if he had started with ♥A,J.2. So West played low and ♥10 won the trick.

Declarer was still not out of the woods for there was no future in cashing \$ A, coming to hand with a trump, and ruffing a heart after taking two discards. He would still have a diamond to ruff and would be unable to return

After cashing ♦ A, therefore, he led ♠ K from the table! East won, but had no heart to play. He led a trump which declarer took in hand. Now the entries were fluid; after discarding two hearts on \$K,Q, South was able to cross-ruff his way to the rest of the tricks.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

ONE OF the complexities of backgammon lies in the fact that on each turn there are 21 different possible rolls of the dice: the six doubles and 15 combinations. A good training exercise is to take any middle game position and then decide how you would play each of the 21 possibilities.

Before rushing into deciding on your moves you should study the chosen position, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each side and decide what your overall game plan should be. Where the dice rolls allow you a choice, you should then select the move that best fits in with your overall game plan.

In the above position Black is on roll. Studying the position, we note that Black has the better board and White does not have an anchor: Thus an attacking strategy is indicated. If Black hits any of White's blots and White stays on the bar then Black will have a very strong double and White in all likelihood will have to pass. For example, 43 should be played 13/10, 8/4*.

This position is used in Michael Depreli's quiz in this month's edition of Bibafax, the excellent quarterly magazine of the British Isles Backgammon Association. There is a scoring system for rating each choice for each move. This type of quiz gives you a good idea of how well you understand the game. One final thought about the position as it appears above - would you double as Black? Would you pass or take as White? Bibogizz also covers these points. Biba can be contacted at 2 Redbourne Drive, Lincoln LN2 2HG.

'An Independent View', an anthology of Chris Bray's articles in The Independent' and elsewhere, costs £11.99 + £1.25 p&p from: C Bray, 18 Glendower Road, London SW14 8NY.

Planet Soccer and a Pratt called Gascoigne.

There's more to football than the World Cup. It's a funny old game, whether you like it or not. By William Hartston

Richmond, Virginia

Richmond, Virginia, in 1995 showed that soccer players who frequently head the ball risk a deterioration in their mental skills. Players who headed the ball more than 10 times each game scored worse than average on tests of attention, concentration and overall mental functioning. Evidence of harm from less frequent heading was inconclusive.

In July 1995, a 29-year-old supporter of the Jinan Taishan football team committed suicide by flinging himself out of the window of his fourthfloor apartment when his team's London opponents, Beijing Guoan, equalised competition

A survey conducted before Fathers' Day in 1995 revealed that 47 of the 2,867 men questioned would like to Congo be soccer players if they could be reborn in any form they chose. The most popular response was a bird (155 respondents), followed by a woman (148) and a baseball player

In August 1995, Brazilian players Peru were told that they could still celebrate scoring goals, but not by climbing the fence around the pitch, or by running to the phone box behind the goal and pretending to make telephone calls. Covering their heads with the front of their shirts was deemed permissible.

When the team from Channings Wood prison, near Newton Abbot. in the final of the 1995 Les Bishop any responsibility. Cup, the prison authorities refused to let them out of jail. All previous

Research at the Medical College of When Padova beat Genoa on penalties in an Italian league relegation play-off in 1995, three Genoa fans died of heart attacks, two at the stadium and one at home watching the match on television.

The start of a first division match in Soweto between Moroka Swallows and QwaQwa Stars in 1995 was delayed after the visiting Stars team had accused a Swallows official of splashing magical water on them. The referee delayed the start of the game to allow the players' shirts to

When the rules for Euro 96 were in the semi-final of a Chinese league drawn up, bagpipes were included, together with knives, fireworks and gas canisters, on the list of offensive weapons that had to be left at stadium entrances.

Lightning killed 11 soccer fans during a match in 1996 at Moutamba. They were watching the match during a thunderstorm from the branches of a mango tree. It was the worst single case of lightning deaths ever recorded in Congo.

As Peru prepared to meet Colombia in a vital World Cup qualifier in 1996, they called on the services of a witch doctor to send their opponents to sleep. The "Shaman of the Andes" Juan Osco set up an altar on the pitch in Lima and led groups of medicine men in rituals that included stabbing. kicking and spitting at miniature effigies of the top Colombian players. When a Colombian midfielder was taken to hospital with appendicitis bequalified to meet Victoria Rangers fore the match, however, Osco denied

rounds had been played at home, but The Stanford Arms ended the Lowthe rules specified a neutral venue estoft Sunday League in 1996 with



had three points deducted when they Turkey 1 called a match off because they could not field a full team. "There's always next season." said landlord Brian Cook.

The players of Poole Town were carried shoulder high by fans after they drew with Bashley 0-0 in the Beazer Homes southern division in 1996. The result brought to an end to adjust a television aerial to ima 39-game losing streak. A 40th de- prove his reception of his team's feat would have earned Poole a match against Manchester United place in the Guinness Book of in the European Champions'

Two soccer fans committed suicide when Fenerbahce beat Trabzonspor 2-1 in a crucial league match in 1996. The result pushed Trabzonspor down to second place with two games still remaining.

Turkey 2

Nejdet Yavuzer, 45. a Fenerbahce fan, fell to his death in 1996 as he tried

In August 1996, a florist was among three men arrested in Buenos Aires for murdering a Brazilian after he had cheered the goals scored by Nigeria that won them the Olympic final against Argentina.

Gillingham

In December 1996, supporters of the second division club Gillingham were warned that they risked being banned for life if they brought celery into the stands. The club's allegedly overweight goalkeeper Jim

vegetable at recent matches. "Perhaps if they threw lasagne, I might take more notice," he

A survey of British teenagers conducted in 1996 by the Goethe Institute revealed that the German most of them had heard of was Adolf Hitler with Jurgen Klinsmann way behind in second place.

Loughborough In November 1996, Loughborough

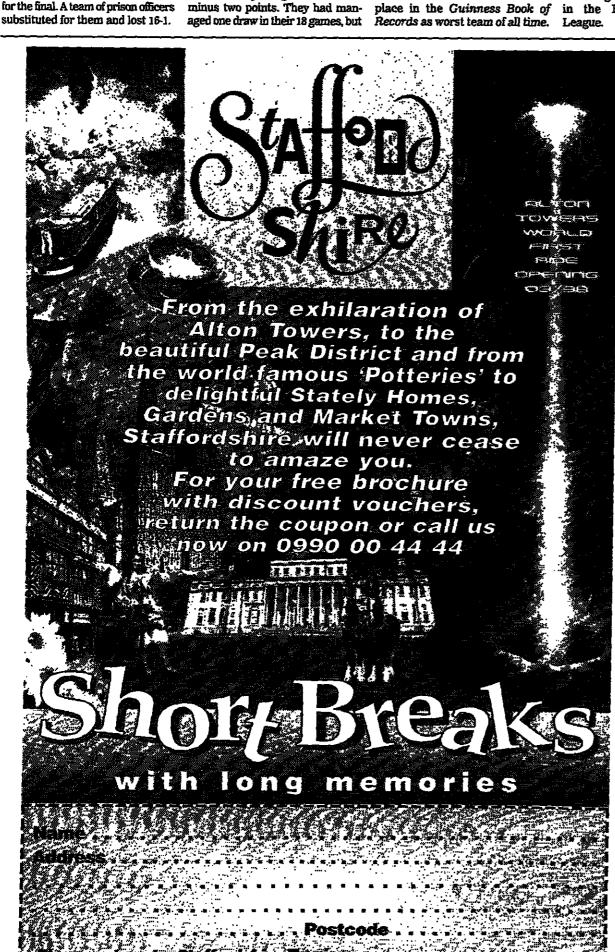
THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

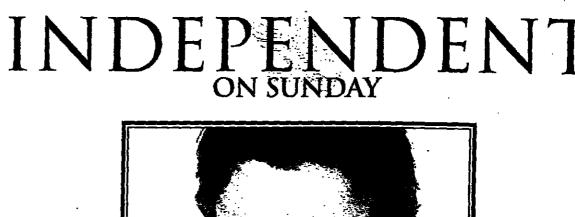
ing discussions with the Foothell Association with a view to developing stress management courses for football managers.

Wales

In 1997, researchers in Wales and Hull showed that soccer teams do not improve their results by changing their managers.

In 1997, Kelvin Pratt changed his name to Kelvin Paul Gascoigne. He said he was fed up with being asked:







Is there life after This Life?

'I'm a believer in nudity — I like it when it's frank and honest'

What Daniela Nardini did next ..

Home from Holmes

Deep in Conan Doyle country, something stirs. No hellhound, no mystery; it's a festival, writes Andy Bull

Holmes, this would have been a real twopipe puzzler. After all, the peeling sign on the side door at the Crowborough Cross declared that this was the Conan Doyle Bar. So it would be reasonable to deduce – given the generally accepted concept of the theme pub, and that that the little hilltop Sussex town of Crowborough will play host in just

two weeks' time to the annual Sherlock Holmes Festival - that there would be a spot of branding inside. A collection of deerstalkers behind the bar, for example. A Hound of the Raskervilles' hot dog special on the ackboard. At the very least, a few well-thumbed Sherlock Holmes novels artfully arranged among the old farm implements without which no modern pub is complete.

And yet, while there was a theme, it had nothing at all to do with Sherlock Holmes. It involved a widescreen TV, a barman in an Umbro shirt and a kilt, and a bunch of lunchtime drinkers whose idea of fun was to blast out an accompaniment to a football chant on a blaring hooter.

Perhaps, half an hour before kickoff for England's first World Cup match, Crowborough can be forgiven for having other things on its blood-stained figure upon the floor" mind than the author who spent the last 23 years of his life in the town, 150 is immortalised with a plaque tacked to the side of the Waitrose supermarket, and who is about to draw around 25,000 fans from around the world to events such as the Hound of the Baskerville Dog Show and the Holmes/Watson Billiard tournament.

This is Conan Doyle country. In a neat triangle of rolling downland on the edge of the Ashdown Forest with Crowborough, Groombridge and Forest Row at its extremities, you'll find the places he loved most.

But seekers of the Sherlock Holmes experience may be initially disappointed. For example, Windlesham Manor, the home in Crowborough to which he moved in 1907 with Jean, his young second wife, a year after his first had lost a 13-year fight against tuberculosis, is now a tarsing home. And while Forest Row, a mock-Tudor place that peers at the world through leaded lights, does have the Brambletye Hotel, in which Holmes stayed in The Adventure of Black Peter, it has precious little else, other than a small army of crusty old codgers.

But in Groombridge, you really do get the authentic Sherlock Holmes experience. Conan Doyle knew Groombridge Place, a remarkably intact 17th-century pink-brick moated manor-house, very well. A con-

ven for Sherlock vinced spiritualist, he came here often for séances, and used the house in The Valley of Fear, renaming it Birlstone. He wrote: "The Manor House, with its many gables and its small, diamond-paned windows, was still much as the builder had left it in the early 17th century ... the wooden drawbridge and the

beautiful broad moat, as still and luminous as quicksilver." In a former dairy in the spectac-

ular gardens, a shrine to Conan Doyle has been created. You can trace part of the plot of The Valley of Fear in the Drunken Garden, so named because of the eccentric topiary applied to the yew trees that dot its lawns.

The lord of the manor, one John Douglas, has been blasted with a sawn-off shotgun, and is lying dead on the study floor in a pink dressing gown. Watson takes a stroll in the garden and comes upon a curious sight. Brass plaques at appropriate points, on which passages from the novel are inscribed, guide you to his discovery. On one, you read: "I took a walk in the curious old-world garden which flanked the house ... In that deeply peaceful atmosphere one could forget or remember only as some fantastic nightmare that darkened study, with the sprawling,

Farther on you stop to read: approaching from the house, there was a stone seat ... my eyes lit upon Mrs Douglas and the man Barker (wife and closest friend of the deceased) before they were aware of my presence. Her appearance gave me a shock ... she had been demure and discreet. Now all pretence of grief had passed away from her."

And there, beneath a rustic arbour, and guarded by a posh stone gnome in bowler hat and peasant smock, is the seat in question.

Conan Dovle's shrine has much of interest. There is his callingcard, his camera, his pince-nez, and gifts he gave to his staff, including two button hooks, a Loridon police whistle, and a pencil advertising Nugget boot polish. The clock on the mantlepiece is stopped at the time of his death - 7.24am, on 7 July, 1930.

For much of his time at Crowborough, Holmes was in Conan Doyle's past. The novels for which he is remembered belonged largely to the unhappy period when, out of loyalty to the wife who lay dying in Switzerland, be did not consummate his overpowering love for Jean.

Conan Doyle came to believe implicitly in spiritualism, and there is on display here a passage from an article on the subject, in which he wrote: "I have clasped materialised hands and held long conversations



with the dead voice. I have smelt the peculiar ozone-like smell of ectoplasm, I have seen the "dead" glimmer from a photographic plate which no hand but mine has touched. I have seen spirits walk round the room in fair light and join in the talk of the company."

In this room, we also learn that the powers of deduction of Sheriock Holmes's creator were not as priceless as we might have expected. Holmes was always being called in by Scotland Yard to crack an impenetrable case. But when Conan Doyle found a real murder mystery

help, though they did allow his chauffeur to ferry them in his limo.

Two frames of collected pictures recall the Crowborough Chicken Run Murder of 1924, in which Norman Thorne of Wesley poultry farm was accused of murdering his fiancée, Elsie Cameron. His story was that he had found her hanging from the rafters of a barn and, believing that he would be blamed, chopped up her body and buried it under the chicken run. As you would.

Conan Doyle took up his case in print, pointing out that all the evi-

on his doorstep, the Yard spurned his dence against him was circumstantial, but he was ignored, and Thorne was hanged.

There are less obvious echoes of another case in which Conan Doyle failed. In 1920 he became convinced that photographs taken by two girls, one 10, the other 16, purported to be of fairies, were genuine. Sherlock Holmes would have cracked the case in five minutes, concluding that the girls had performed a crude hoax by cutting illustrations from magazines and photographing themselves alongside them.

The creator of the world's great-

est detective, however, fell for it, and chanted Ladu takes you down the wrote a book called The Coming of Fairies which was his investigation

and vindication of their story. The gardens of Groombridge Place look as if they were created by fairies. In 1992 the owner, Andrew de Candole, hired the surrealist gardenmaker Ivan Hicks and created a 50acre Enchanted Forest, a landscape of pools, fern valleys, mazes, grottoes and a vast Indian teepee area.

Conan Doyle would have loved visiting today. There is Dragon Wood, the Serpent's Lair and the Mystic Pool. A boat called The En-

canal linking the most with the river Crom and into this fantasy world.

Conan Doyle may like to return in a fortnight, in spirit form, to Crowborough, where he will find the place alive with talk of him and his creations. Or he will if, by then, England are out of the World Cup.

The Sherlock Holmes festival runs from 3 to 10 July. Festival hotline: 01892 665464. Groombridge Place: 01892 863999. Brambletye Hotel, Forest Row: 01342 824144.

HEATHROW, HERE we come. Over the next few days, expect to see dozens of races comparing the time taken to reach Britain's busiest airport by various modes of transport. The trigger for these, of course, is the opening on Wednesday of the Heathrow Express between Paddington station in (or close to) central London, and the airport.

fe after

The least reliable airport link anywhere in the world is the steam train that puffs wheezily from the capital of Paraguay to Asunción airport; a close second is the Piccadilly Underground to Heathrow. Furthermore, my attempts to reach the airport by bus, taxi, cycling and hitch-biking have all proved to be alarmingly haphazard, and on the first day that the Heathrow Express ran through to the airport the train I was on shuddered to a halt in the middle of nowhere four times. issuing disconcerting clouds of smoke on each occasion.



SIMON CALDER

The only reliable way to reach Heathrow. I concluded, was by walking ...

So the only reliable way to reach Heathrow, I concluded, was by

And what a fine experience it is. Allow four hours from Oxford Cir-

get diverted by the many attractions en route: first the benign urban jungle of Marylebone and Paddington, Notting Hill and Shepherd's Bush; then leafier Chiswick, where I diverged slightly south of the direct track to glance past the Thames and head out to Hounslow Heath a piece of wilderness that used to conceal highwaymen.

Now the walk becomes implausibly rural. You turn north towards Feltham, and scramble along the bank of a fast-moving (for Middlesex) river

Then across some protected land harbouring chattering birds unperturbed by the one-Jumbo-aminute drone, up a steep incline, and suddenly Heathrow appears before you.

Well, Terminal Four, at least. Your hike ends with the ignominy of a bus ride to the main part of the airport, which is now entirely inaccessible on foot because the old Allow note the standard of the

been given over to cars. But at least you'll doze contentedly on the flight.

WHOSE FLIGHT, though? The last time I flew on Virgin Atlantic 3019 to Newark (from Gatwick). I found myself aboard a Continental Airlines DC-10. So when I checked in for the Virgin flight last Sunday, I was expecting to travel on Continental, Virgin's code-share partner - but saw that the plane was painted in the colours of VASP, a Brazilian airline based in São Paulo. Does anyone have a more extreme example of flying with a "friend of a friend" airline?

MY COLLEAGUE Hamish McCrae has observed that a number of people equivalent to the entire population of Britain passes through Heathrow each year.

For many British travellers, the

and Guernsey, for example, find themselves disenfranchised; air services to and from these locations have been scrapped so that the slots at Heathrow can be used for more profitable routes.

A TRANSATLANTIC flight to Boston last Boxing Day led to an adventure for Richard Downs of Cheshire, who sends in the latest episode in the US car rental saga. He and his wife had planned to make the three-hour drive to the aptly named ski resort of Mount Snow in Vermont. At the Alamo depot, it wasn't just a question of the booked car not being available: "We were told by several disgruntled British holiday-makers who had arrived two hours earlier that there were no hire cars at all at the depot."

The Alamo people explained that no one had been able to return easiest way to reach Heathrow a rental car because of the depth of used to be to fly there. But people the snow, and told customers to take cross the Atlantic. Our travelling

for Mr and Mrs Downs could have cost more than the flight from Heathrow. "There was, however, a small bus at the back of the building which might be going in our direction. Were we interested? We certainly were.

"This turned out to be one of the airport shuttle buses, driven by a Haitian who had lived in America for only two years, had never been outside Massachusetts and didn't generally drive outside the airport

"There were seven of us on board, the other five going to Killington. We left everyone else from both flights behind when some unseen force told the driver that it was time to leave. It turned out that he had volunteered to do this in his own time in order to help us; he had just finished his shift.

"The journey took us seven hours, as long as it had taken to

and as we were the last to be delivered we felt obliged to try to make it worth his while. What we gave him in no way compensated for his efforts, especially since he faced a seven-hour return journey and the next day's shift."

money with which to tip the driver.

Vehicle-less in Vermont, Mr Downs spent the next two days on the phone to Alamo in Boston - during which he was told variously that he had cancelled the car, and that one had already been delivered. Finally one arrived. "It came on the back of a transporter, to save the mileage, and was indeed the one I had ordered, down to the ski rack on the roof. I still wonder, however, what happened to our driver, and whether his act of heroism ever went rewarded by his employers."

Enough US car rental stories for now; what about more tales of workers in the oft-maligned travel industry going beyond the call of

Ring of bright water



The 'Big Boys' of the surfing milieu ride waves that novices can only wonder at

The tube is the holy grail of every surfie - but for the first timer, mere mastery of the board has a very steep learning curve, as Eric Kendall found out

t first glance there is not much to surfing. First catch your wave, then jump to your feet, do some tricks and soak up the giory back on the beach. Simple - just you, the board and the waves - but not easy.

To bring the dream to life, meet Darren, your reassuring surfing instructor. He's the perfect mix of surferish relaxed affability and not so much cool as to make you lose yours completely. He's certainly bronzed enough to look the part but much of that tan is on top of his head. where stereotype suggests a flowing blond mane should sprout.

Now meet your board, enormous and obviously buoyant - stick on a mast and you could call it a dinghy. Like Darren, it's perhaps not quite as sleek as you might have expected, but it's all the more confidenceinspiring for that.

With one of these bright vellow foam blocks under your arm, there's absolutely no chance of anyone mistaking you for a real surfer, least of all when you file like a duckling across the sand, wearing a damp wetsuit, behind Darren in his Dayglo Surf South West instructor's

There is no chance of charging into the waves, either, which I thought was de rigueur for all

With an onshore gale, it was all



MUCH of Britain's coast has surfable conditions at various times of year, if your wetsuit is thick enough. In practice, the West Country is where it's at. but you don't need to go all the way to Newquay to find excellent, consistent conditions. Surf South West (01271 815888), www.britsurf.org/SurfSouthWest, is based at west-facing Croyde Bay, in north Devon, which has consistently good conditions and clean water.

For details of other approved schools and information on learning to surf. contact the British Surfing Association

Surf schools provide wetsuits and beginners' boards as well as tuition: you provide a swimsuit, waterproof sunscreen and determination.

Other than during flat calms or raging storms, surfing will always be possible don't be put off just because rain is forecast. Since the surf is a free, natural resource that doesn't get used up, it's a relatively cheap sport. Even qualified coaching tends to be excellent value.



water's edge, which is where you cover the basics. They don't take because the booking form said you have to be able to do at least 50 metres, though it hardly applies to we could do to claw our way to the start with, in the shallows.

Probably more important, is knowing what to do the instant you long. Darren knows you can swim, fall off - cover your head with your arms - because even these softskinned boards can give you a battering. The advice on currents and rip-tides is also essential listening.

The key thing, while you're still dry, is to learn the position to adopt when out on the waves, lying face down on the board. Too far back and it pops out and upwards, too far forwards and it nose-dives as it accelerates, dumping you head first into

the water and quite possibly on to

It's worth paying close attention to avoid having to learn these vital stages by trial and error.

Hugely prematurely, you then learn the technique for jumping to your feet, a sort of cross between a press-up and a squat thrust in reverse, only more tiring.

In an ideal world (where the water's a constant 25°C and the sun always shines, you go from lying down to a side-on stance in one smooth move.

in practice, it's more likely to be a fumbling on to one knee manoeuvre, followed by a shaky phase before falling off. Hawaii will just have to wait. Out in the water, it can be a struggle to make even a few yards through the surf. You don't go out anything like as far as the big boys. who deserve respect for their prodigious paddling ability alone, and you do not need to: long before you can try any of the real deep-water stuff. you need to practise catching waves that have already broken.

When you spot a likely looking wave (a big, foaming wall of water coming straight at you will do nicely), the technique is to point your board straight towards the shore, jump on and paddle like crazy. Faced with my first large wave, this response felt pretty well instinctive. The paddling action feels futile and looks hilarious.

Like most funny things, it's all

wave hits - either it lifts you upwards and forwards (good, you've caught it) or surges over and buries you (bad, it caught you). When that happens, just remember not to breathe until you surface and (timing again) don't take your first gasp just as the next wave arrives. or it could be the beginning of a down-

ward spiral. It's about now that Darren cruises casually past (standing up - how does he do that?) to impart some pearls of wisdom (and talking at the same time). The fact that you're id iour or live gi special of the games of the games of special or and have green things running out of your nose reinforces the pipil-teacher relationship; it's a very long time before anyone gets too big for their boots when learn-

ing to surf. But the sensation of catching that first wave - smooth power. speed and pure fun - is in a league of its own, topped only by each surfing breakthrough that follows: clambering tentatively to your feet, standing up and staying up, and learning to turn.

Finally, you can graduate to a real glass fibre board and head out into waves. This is the ultimate goal. what all those songs have been written about and what otherwise dormal people reorganise their lives for And it's such an elusive grail that Darren is as happy as his pupils when they make it, even if they still have slimy green things running out

about timing: paddle harder as the of their noses.

CHECK IN



A train

Or is it a plane? Britain's newest "airline" is the Heathrow Express (0845 600 1515). Even though this is a train company, it has just been awarded its own Ista airline code. Just as BA is the code for British Airways and VS is Virgin Atlantic. Heathrow Express becomes 2E=. The 15-minute link will be officially opened by the Prime one-way fare in standard class will be £10, in first class

A boat

Duty-free sales within the European Union end in a year's time. Until then, expect ridiculously cheap ferry daytrip offers - such as the latest one from Bryant & May. Buy 600 worth of matches, and you get free tickets for five people on P&O's Stena Line from Dover to Calais.

A plane

Tomorrow, Air France (0181-742 6600) begins flights from Paris to Havana; this means that travellers from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Southampton and London can reach the Cuban capital with a change of plane at Charles de Gaulle airport. Through agents such as Journev Latin America (0181-747 3108) fares are available for £448 return in June.

A room

The continued strength of Sterling, plus the availability of cheap flights, means Switzerland is once again a competitive destination. The Swiss organisation Reka Holidays, based in the capital Bern, offers family holidays on farms. Prices start at SFr 350 (£200) for a family of four selfcatering. Call 00 41 31 329 6633, or fax 00 41 31 329 6601.

The absurd BA World Offer of 1299 from London to Tokyo has now been removed from sale, but anyone who got a ticket should call in at Tsukiji market. This is where most of the sushi and sashimi sold in the city originates, and a new restaurant, the Uoshiki, offers a fish lunch for around a fiver

A drink

Bargain air fares to Australia continue until the end of the month; you need not pay more than £600 return. Once there, you could begin drinking vigorously in preparation for the 36th Beer Can Regatta, held in Darwin, northern Australia, on 2 August. The "boats" are made from 6,000. or so empty beer cans. The Northern Territory Tourist Commission (0181-944 2992) says "Cheating and sabotage are mandatory".

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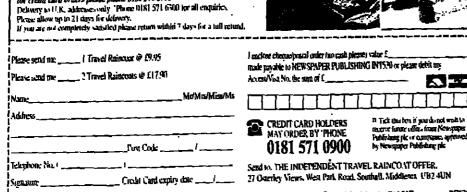
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Zero tolerance time

IT'S SATURDAY night. You're freezing cold, the taxis are full, and the club you want to go to is miles away. It looks as if you'll have to walk. Then something silver pulls up to the kerb. It's got ultraviolet music. It's got ... well, it's got a bus driver. It is a bus, but one with a difference - it has a condom machine, for a start. Welcome to Bus Zero, the

party animal of public trans-This new adjunct to club culture operates in Sheffield, a city re-inventing itself as the country's leisure capital after the death of its steel industry. From 8pm to midnight, Wednesday to Saturday, the three customised minibuses of the Bus Zero "fleet" run every 10 minutes, taking revellers from one oasis of alcohol to white light above the emeranother while they continue

the party on board. The service was launched last October by Mainline, and is aimed at 18 to 30-year-olds

out for a good time. "We identified a market that we weren't catering for," says Mike Holmes, commercial officer of Mainline. "There was a large movement of people from pubs and night-spots to clubs in the city centre, so we identified what we thought would be a suitable mode of tapes, but generally just tune Her friend Rachel, however,

Want to party on public transport? Then catch the magic bus that's a clubbers' dream. By Simon Beckett

light. It's got thumping dance transport. The idea was to con- into a non-stop dance radio tinue the club environment." Passengers on Bus Zero can take their drinks (in cans)

on board, smoke, or buy a little something for the weekend from the condom machine. There is a flat fare of 50p. Outside the buses are silver, with a large white zero on the front, back and sides. Inside, the colour scheme is silver, grey and black, with a four-speaker sound system. The seats face each other across the aisle under the glow of an ultraviolet light (although there's also a party-pooper gency door, leaving more room to cluster and even

dance, should anyone have the inclination and the balance. The drivers wear black "Bus Zero" sweatshirts and seem to enjoy the atmosphere as much as the passengers. "I'm right into it," says one of

them. "It's friendly. Nobody complains. There's never any trouble. Everybody's happy. The drivers can choose the music from a selection of

station and pump up the volume. Although there is a specified 20-minute route - into the city centre along a main "drinking corridor", out along another - it is open to interpretation. When some girls on the other side of the street flag down the bus, our driver does a U-turn and picks them up. It turns out they had no idea what the bus was; they waved

it down as a joke. First-time passengers obviously wonder what they are getting into. One girl, dressed in black Sixties chic, climbs on and looks around bewildered. "What is this bus?" she asks, shouting to be heard above the music. "Brilliant," she exclaims when it's explained. "Makes me feel like dancing,"

Two others do a double-take and collapse into giggles when they see the condom machine. this particular item on a bus are mixed. "It's good that it's promoting safe sex," says Josie, a first-year student at

Attitudes towards finding Sheffield Hallam University disagrees. "It's just so bla-Even if the condom ma-

chine fails to do a roaring trade, by 11.30pm the bus itself is heaving. Cans of beer are swigged, cigarettes smoked, and a good time is being had by all. "Really wicked!" says one girl, out on her 18th birth-

The atmosphere is loud and sociable. Then there's a problem: the sound system develops a fault. There are shouts to turn up the music. but it sinks into the background babble, and without it Bus Zero is in danger of becoming just a grey minibus with funny lighting.

Luckily, the passengers start singing their own songs. A cluster of young men are chanting, "Magic bus, magic bus, get on the magic bus." The driver throws his route to the winds and zig-zags around the city, dropping people off wherever they like. Finally, the bus is empty except for four girls at the back. Which club are they going to? "We're not," they say. "The driver's taking us home." And, music still playing. Bus Zero parties off into the Sheffield night

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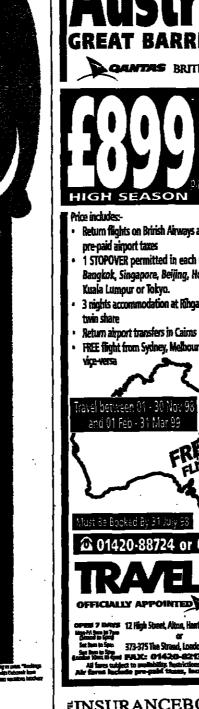
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Why go now?

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Beam down

Fly from Aberdeen, Beifast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Bristol. Cardiff, East Midlands, Inverness, Leeds/Bradford, London (Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton and Stansted). Manchester or Southampton, Most of these flights arrive at Abbotsinch airport, eight miles west of the centre, from where a £2.50 bus ride takes you to Buchanan Street bus station. Some, from Stansted and Belfast, arrive at Prestwick, 30 miles south west; a train to Central station takes 45 minutes. Train and bus services from all over Britain will get you there more slowly but more cheaply; I booked a week ahead and travelled on the ScotRail Sleeper from London Euston for £79.

Get your bearings

Glasgow sprawls for miles on either side of the Clyde. As in London and Merseyside, most of the action - including Mackintosh's work - takes place on the north side of the water. The city centre is relatively compact. a square mile hemmed in to the north and west by the M8 motorway and to the south by the river. In the east, the Greater Glasgow Tourist Information at 11 George Square (0141-204 4400) will kit you out with maps and information - including the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Buildings Guide 1998.

Check in

For comfortable and relatively cheap B&B, the best hunting-grounds are on and around Renfrew Street, in the Hillhead district, a couple of miles farther west. Both are well placed for a Mackintosh marathon. I paid £42 a night for two at the Willow Hotel. 228 Renfrew Street (0141-332 2332). Later. I paid £50 at the artless but extremely central Charing Cross Tower Hotel (10 Elmbank Gardens, 0141 221 1000), a hideous Seventies cubic office block that has been converted into a remarkably comfortable hotel. At the top end of the If it's Saturday at 10.30am, you scale, you could try the sumptuous One Devonshire Gardens, whose of Art-it's the last chance you'll get name is its address (its telephone all weekend to explore Charles Rennumber is the more prosaic 0141-339

You need a break - and a short cut to the soul of a city. This week, as Glasgow gears up to be City of Architecture & Design, Simon Calder sets out on the trail of Charles Rennie Mackintosh



north west of the city centre; and the Glasgow School of Art - Mackintosh's greatest achievement

Take a ride

The little orange trains that rumble around the circular underground line are (a) cute, (b) handy for many Mackintosh locations. The flat fare is 65p. The drawback is that you'll see little of the city.

really must tour the Glasgow School nie Mackintosh's greatest achieve-The underground will take you

to Cowcaddens, and a steep hike will bring you to 167 Renfrew Street (0141-353 4526). Admission £3.50. Tours from 4 July; book in advance.

Lunch on the run

Ninety-five years ago Charles Rennie Mackintosh created the Willow Tea Rooms at 217 Sauchiehall Street. His client was Miss Kate Cranston, a well-known restaurateur. The tall, handsome structure fell into decline but 20 years ago it was restored, and leased to M M Henderiewellery shop. The tea

a lunch-time queue, but hang on for a table at the first-floor Room de Luxe. Here, high-backed chairs facilitate conspiracy in a chamber crowded with elegance and hurrying waitresses. Alternatively, you can still find deep-fried Mars Bars on

sale in some Glasgow takeaways.

Cultural afternoon Head east along Sauchiehall Street then south past a couple of Mackintosh's journalistic achievements.

the Daily Record building on Ren-

rooms were reopened; there is often field Lane and the Herald building on Mitchell Street. At St Enoch. take the clockwise underground train three stops to Shields Road. In the Scotland Street School just opposite. Charles Rennie Mackintosh compiled a civic amenity which it must have been a joy to attend. The school now houses a museum of education, but you can still smell the carbolic. The School (0141-429 1202) is open 10am-5pm Mondays to Saturdays and Ham-5pm Sundays, and, like most mueums in Glasgow, is free.

Adam Woolfitt/RHPL

An aperitif Rogano's (11 Exchange Place, 0141-248 4055) was created after Mackintosh's death, but this beautiful Art Deco par restaurant pays tribute to him. You can see where the designers for some of the Clyde's great ocean liners got their ideas.

Demure dinner

Credit-card limit permitting, stay here to dine. Alternatively, take the underground to Hillhead. Many of Glasgow's most innovative restauare on and around Byres Road

Bracing brunch

The strangest restaurant in Glasgow, if not Scotland, is on unassuming Woodlands Road, close to the junction with Lynedoch Street. Entering the Insomnia Cafe (0141-564 1700) is like stumbling into a set for some surreal Seventies album cover This restaurant is open around the clock, but comes into its own on Sunday mornings with a repertoire of classic brunch dishes such as eggs Benedict and excellent cappuccino.

Sunday pm: go to church

It's not open on Sunday mornings. The global headquarters of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society is at 870 Garscube Road - and his memory is suitably sustained in the Queen's Cross Church that he built here. Mackintosh's excursion into ecclesiastical construction is one of his most intriguing designs, allowing his imagination to flourish while constrained by the needs of the Church of Scotland. From the enthusiastic staff here, you can enrich your understanding of Mackintosh - and sign up to the society. The church (0141-946 6000) is open 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday. 10am-2pm on Saturday, 2pm-5pm on Sundays.

A walk in the park

Just south of Junction 23 on the MB. in the north-east corner of Bellahouston Park, you discover a building that took nearly a century to be realised: House for an Art Lover. In 1901, Charles Rennie Mackin-

tosh entered a German magazine competition. Construction according to his winning plans finally began in 1989, and ended in 1996. This Mackintosh mansion embraces most of the techniques and touches that were his hallmarks - and boasts an excellent café. House for an Art Lover (0141-353 4449 for midweek opening times) is open every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. Admission £3.50 for adults, £2.50 for children. £7 for a family.

The icing on the cake

Despite his vision, Mackintosh died a broke and broken man in 1928. The city rewarded his memory by knocking down his house, 78 Southpark Avenue, after the war. A near-replica has been built on the university campus, and is stuffed with salvaged chattels. The bedroom is a dazzling white feast, the five-poster (count 'em) bed balanced by a sleek fireplace and elegantly curved mirror. The seeds of Art Deco. not to mention Habitat, are evident. The Mackintosh House on University Avenue (0141-330 5431) is, however, not open

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Isle of pilgrims and martyrs

St Ninian began it all. For centuries pilgrims made their way to the Isle of Whithorn in south-west Scotland. Now the area is hoping to attract a new type of visitor. By Harriet O'Brien

PILGRIMS: THEY were the earliest tourists. And what a potent combination must have fired them penance, conviction, curiosity and no small amount of courage.

Standing on the shores of the Isle of Whithorn, with sunlight dancing on the water, waves gently churning the pebbles on the beach, it was difficult to appreciate the determination and discomfort with which the pioneer globe-trotters must have travelled to this remote corner of south-west Scotland. The area is so quiet and thinly visited today that it area became something of a requires a leap of imagination to conceive of the numbers of sea-weary travellers who came here. Yet from England, Ireland, even Italy and beyond they would arrive to pay tribute to a saint now relegated to the margins of folk memory.

Few hard facts about St Ninian have survived. It is known, however, that vast and valiant numbers of people came to pray here over the centuries, not least because Ninian was the first missionary to bring Christianity to Scotland. More than 100 years before St Columba set up his monastery on the island of Iona, Ninian had already converted the southern Picts of Galloway. It is thought that he was the son of a local Solway chieftain, and that at some stage he left to study in Rome. He returned not only to preach, but also to build a stone chapel which became one of the wonders of the region, the Picts not having seen a stone construction before.

The roofless ruin of the building, which was rebuilt in the 13th century, stands at the edge of the Isle of Whithorn. Follow signs a few miles further north to Kidsdale, and you can

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pick up a trail running through woodland and down to a sea-lashed cave where legend has it that the

saint sought meditative sanctuary. Whatever the truth of this, the cave was certainly the site of many visits from those early pilgrim tourists. Meanwhile, inland, in the little town of Whithorn itself, some of the mystery of St Ninian is being dug up in an archaeological excav ation of the monastery and town that

grew up around the saint's shrine. Indeed, in its time the Whithorn Lourdes of the north: Ninian died around 432 and from then until the latter part of the 16th century, when pilgrimages were banned under the Scottish Reformation, those coming to pay tribute to his relics would often claim miracle cures.

For my own part, I had come to both to satisfy my curiosity and to seek a modern-day cure of space and peace. The Isle of Whithorn is not in fact an island at all, but a pretty harbour village lying more or less at the point of a gloriously quiet peninsula. In the chunky triangle of The Machars, jutting into the Solway Firth between Dumfries and Stranraer, there's a distinct sense that you are getting right away from it all. This is a place that feels as if it has slunk back into the Fifties.

The area may lack the spectacthose in the know come here to enjoy the green and gentle landscape of rolling hills, the history and mystery (ruins and standing stones) and the golf and game (trout- and salmon-fishing on the river Bladnoch), to say nothing of the walks through unspoilt countryside.

Presbyterians were sentenced to death for refusing to sign a government oath that was at odds with the fundamental beliefs of their Kirk Across Scotland, particularly in the Lowlands, 600 named people were also executed. And it is probable that several hundred more nameless souls met the same fate.

"People sometimes bead north to Millais, whose Martyr of the Solucy, The Machars when the Lake District portraying the young Margaret, was gets full up - it's not far, after all," painted in 1871 and now hangs in the one Whithorn resident explained. Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. "And then they come back, again and Margaret Wilson's tombstone.

So why was the area now so under-visited? Peaceful and unspoilt though it may be, such tranquillity comes at a price for local prosperity. "Transport," came the brief reply.

The Scottish Reformation may have brought an end to the steady stream of pilgrims, but the peninsula had continued to attract sea-faring trade. Railways replaced this in the last century, but when the last of the trains stopped running in the Sixties the place all but died commercially.

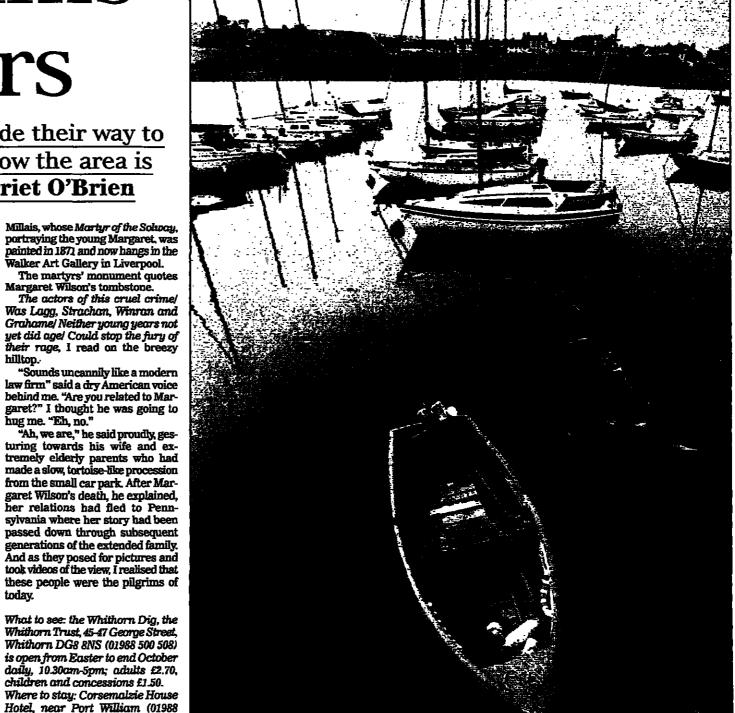
It was in a bid to inject new life into The Machars that Wigtown, some eight miles north of Whithorn, recently applied to become Book Town of Scotland. Beating off rival applications from the likes of Moffat and Dunblane, Wigtown won which effectively means that funding is available for regenerating the area, especially for those attracting a new breed of bookish tourists. The town is now busily revamping itself as a northern answer to Hay-on-Wye, and at least five new bookshops have popped up.

All power to them. This looks bizarrely like a ghost town, a place that was clearly built in better days. ular views of the Highlands, but Its massive High Street, echoingly empty on the day I was there, is wide enough to accommodate a neatly clipped bowling-green right in the middle. Its huge town hall remains as something of a memorial to past

Another memorial stands on a hilltop overlooking the town. Until the triumph of the book bid. this encapsulated Wigtown's main claim to fame - a haunting story from one of Scotland's more turbulent periods.

It was in Wigtown in 1685 that five

became particularly famous because of the two women among them. Margaret Maclachlan, aged 63, and Margaret Wilson, just 18, were fied to a stake in Wigtown Bay and slowly drowned in the rising tide. Nearly a century later the poignancy of their fate captured the imagination of the painter Sir John



The Isle of Whithorn's quiet harbour

John Voos



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Swiftly through paradise

The West Highland Way can be run as well as walked - but the true joy is to take it slowly. By Rob Stepney

ou take the fast road; I'll take the slow. The West Highland Way is a pop-ular long-distance footpath. Today, it is also a racetrack that makes a marathon look like a jog round the

For Terry Marsh, writer of definitive walking guides, the best part of the 95-mile West Highland Way is the 941,2 miles in the middle. He would forgo the first few yards, which take the walker through a supermarket car park on the outskirts of Glasgow, and the last few yards on Fort William's grey streets. "But plank me down anywhere else on the Way and

I'd be happy," he says.

No other long-distance path in
Britain can rival the West Highland Way's variety of terrain and historical associations. It moves from pastoral lowland, along the bonnie wooded banks of Loch Lomond, across bleak Rannoch Moor to the Pass of Giencoe - scene of the massacre of the clan MacDonald in 1692 and finally through true Highland country, over the Devil's Staircase

and to the foot of Ben Nevis itself. Part of the Way is on remote military roads built to suppress the Jacobites, part on old tracks used by drovers taking upland sheep and cattle to market, and part on rough woodland or moorland paths. This richness of experience, and the neatness with which it fits into a week's holiday, has made the West Highland Way Britain's most popular long-distance route. Every year 15,000 people walk it from end to end.

Steven Westwood, the path manager, explains: "Pressure-pads buried at five key points record the number of walkers pretty accurately. On busy days we can plot a wave of people moving along Loch Lomond

For Terry Marsh, the Way is best appreciated slowly. Ideally it should last more than the usual week, with perhaps a day off en route. "The longer you take, the more you'll enjoy it," he says. But there is a radically different approach. At 3am today, 60 of Britain's most hardened "ultra" athletes set out to run the whole of the West Highland Way within 24 hours. The record is under 17 hours.

Their task is equivalent to completing more than three London marathons in succession, while climbing Ben Nevis twice in the process. "Each runner will consume 35,000 calories, more than most of us expend in a week. It's equal in energy to 7lb of fat," says Dr Roger Eston, lecturer in human physiology at Bangor University. The 40 or so runners who endure to the end will be sore for a week.

What makes them do it? For Adri-

an Stott, aged 43, running the course for the fourth time, the experience is oddly on a par with yoga and meditation. "There is obviously incredible elation at the finish. But it is also a humbling experience," he says. "It is as if there is a hidden force driving you on." For those who prefer a more relaxed pace on what they hope will be a sunny June day, the way is set with flowers: late bluebells along Loch Lomond, and on Rannoch Moor the yellow stars of the bog asphodel, bell heather, and perhaps the first signs of the purple marsh orchid. Across Glen Falloch south of Crianlarich are ancient Scots pine, rem-



The West Highland Way - 95 miles stretching from the outskirts of Glasgow to Fort Williams' grey streets

Jeremy Sutton Hibbe

fresh green of new birch and rowan. From the bare hills above Bridge at Orchy, a walker may be lucky and see golden eagles taking flight. Along Loch Lomond there is a chance of spotting feral goats and perhaps one of the shy pine martens that have recently returned to the area. North of the loch, red deer are common, though in this calving season they prefer the high ground.

Running the course against the clock, there can surely be little chance of taking this in. not least because (even so close to the longest day) some of the route will be run in nants of the giant forest that once darkness. But, Adrian Stott argues,

cloaked most of Caledonia, and the not all is lost on the ultra-athlete. "The point is not to switch off, but to switch into the wonder," he says. "You try to stay focused as much as you can. And at times you can appreciate incredible beauty, such as the play of intense evening light on

the mountains." There are others, such as David Rogers who completed the course last year, who remember nothing but the torture of climbing 10-ft deer fences and being force-fed bananas. while looking no farther ahead than

the next yard of rough ground. Of the different Highland ways, you take the fast road, and I'll take

HIGHLAND HIKES

FOR BASIC information on the West Highland Way send an sae to Loch Lomond Park Authority. Old Station, Balloch G83 8SS. The 100-page West Highland Way by Terry Marsh (Cicerone Press. 26.99) is one of several comprehensive guides to the route.

The problems of walking the Way in late spring and summer include pressure on limited accommodation. May is the busiest month. But rooms can be booked, and the difficulty is reduced by starting the walk mid-week. There are often long spells of fine weather in October.

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Bus and train routes run reasonably close to the Way at several points, so the walk can easily be

done in stages. Pack-carrying services will ferry rucksacks from one overnight stop to the next. For £28 per bag, Travel-Lite (0141-956 7890) will cover the

Among those organisations providing guided walks off the West Highland Way are Scottish Youth Hostels, 01786 891301, whose price of £325 includes all accommodation, food and carriage of

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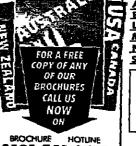


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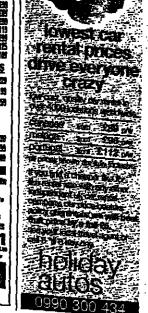
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Back to Balkan basics

There are still corners of eastern Europe where storks nest on roof-tops, and monks welcome the weary traveller. By Roderic Dunnett

THIS IS where the horizontal becomes the vertical," boomed a voice from up front. And we found ourselves pitched up an abrupt, pineneedle-strewn mountain path, climbing upwards for almost an hour through a forest of beech, hazel and hornbeam. Suddenly we burst through bracken on to a sun-

My party of 10 was making the ascent to Midzhur, at 7,100ft one of the tallest pinnacles in the Balkan region, straddling the western border of Bulgaria that abuts the former Yugoslavia. Beyond, uninhabited green valleys cascade away towards Nis and Serbia.

This must be one of the most idyllic, least trumpeted niches of southern Europe, where you can turn a corner and encounter a view as striking, in its way, as the English Lake District, France's Massif Central or the footbills of the Pyrenees.

I had opted for a trekking holiday on foot (and sometimes by minibus) into out-of-the way Bulgaria, starting out from Vratsa.

Our first day's walking from here set the pace: an ascent, up steepish mountain paths and over a plateau dotted with grass-of-Parnassus and wild lilac, to Ledenika Cave. This Bulgarian equivalent of Cheddar was proudly shown off by Vanko, the chatty, English-speaking proprietor. Ledenika boasts 350 separate underground chambers and a main cavern large enough to stage concerts by the local symphony orchestra.

Later we skirted the spectacular Skakliya, a vast span of 600-ft rock-face and waterfall, on the way to Okolchitsa, the spot where Hristo Botev, who led the courageous mid-19th-century Bulgarian-Turkish resistance, met a sticky end in 1876 at the age of only 27. Our descent lay past neatly laid out village smallholdings, with bright displays of peach, pear, orange and plum trees and with red peppers drying in the sun. One local resident cheerfully of visited was Clisurski, with its verfered the dusty walkers clusters of

his succulent dark grapes. At the small village enclave of after two nights spent in basic moun-require visas for Bulgaria.

Ciprovtsi, a two-night stay in a gostopryemnitsa (a tourist pension), with well-herbed fish for dinner and hot apple-doughnuts (mekitsi) for breakfast, offered a further glimpse into village life. Old men sunned themselves on a verandah outside the bar, setting the world to rights in a cheerful baze of

smoke and racy Slavonic. Storks nested on precarious chimneys. Flocks of village goats wound up our street in a baleful morning cortège, and returned with tinkling bells at dusk. Donkey carts - still a prime method of transport in rural Bulgaria - sauntered past. Frail old women (the grandmother, or baba, is an indispensible part of the Bulgarian extended family) piled up newly-sawn logs, or pitchforked long grass into old-fashioned propped hayricks.

There were purchases to be made here. Prices (in dollars) for locally hand-woven carpets and handcarved silver were hammered out in private homes over copious coffee, fruit and heady rokiyo. In a tiny, cramped weaving factory nearby, the speed and artistry of a trio of women at their looms awed us into respectful silence. Next door, the local primary school children chirrupped nursery rhymes in English to welcome their visitors.

From here, after a four-hour saunter over gentle hills, we came to Lopushanski, a monastery with sprawling dogs and a spacious, lowlit church. Here Father Endlion proudly owned up to never having been outside Bulgaria, served lukewarm lime tea and presided at dinner in vociferous broken English, holding forth on Turkish duplicity, women priests and the merits of beans for the diet.

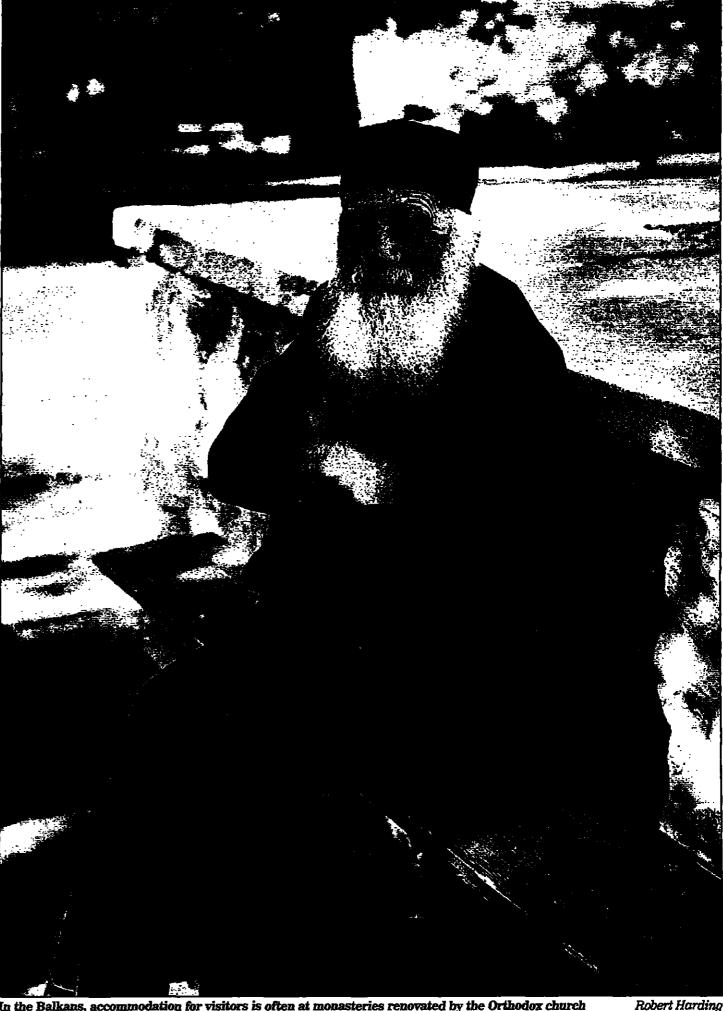
Looushanki's once-rickety rooms, like those in other monasteries, are now being handsomely renovated in pine and white plaster, with finds from the Orthodox church. Most andah, bar and restaurant. It tain hostels, with their communal kitchens and suspect plumbing

But the sumptuous views from the relaxed, two-day trek across Kom mountain easily made up for any deprivation. And there was better to come. No sight in north-west Bulgaria quite competes with the breathtaking vista from the spa town of Belogradchik. The balcony restaurant of our cyric-like, Bavarian-feel hotel looked out across sandstone pillars. It felt like Saxon Switzerland, or a mini-Arizona.

There are other sites worth sniffing out nearby: the elaborate Magura Caves - out of action when we were there, owing to an electricity failure; the awesome Bogya Most a huge, river-level, arched cavern hollowed out of limestone over countless millennia, which feels like an entrance to the Underworld: the almost Imperial mineral baths at Varshets; the spectacular gorge of the Iskur River, with the Cherepish monastery nestling deep at the foot of the canyon.

Ours was a low-budget tour, definitely not suitable for the five-star traveller. It was the sort of trip that's heaven for anyone with a love of the great outdoors, an urge to walk and explore, and a penchant for the sort of decaying charm and simplicity that you find in old Eastern

Roderic Dunnett paid £660 for a fortnight in Bulgaria with Mountains and Monasteries, 10 Cecily Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV3 5LA (01203 501959). For the regular Bulgarian tourist routes, Ace Study Tours (01223 835055) offers stylish, upmarket lecture tours; Balkan Holidays (0171-491 4499) can organise winter skiing as well as a range of summer holidays. Balkan Bulgarian (tickets from Apple Air on 0181-741 7993) and British Airways (0345 222111) fly to Sofia from Heathrow and Gatwick respectively. The lowest fare for travel in July is £210 return, including tax, on Balkan Bulgarian. seemed all the more welcoming British passport holders no longer



In the Balkans, accommodation for visitors is often at monasteries renovated by the Orthodox church

Retreat from Moscow

Sochi on the Black Sea is every Russian's dream of a seaside resort. By Richard Naisby

SOCHI IS not like the rest of Russia. Palm trees line the promenade; bamboo grows in the gardens; tea plantations cover the slopes that rise from the sea. In a land of endless forests and desperately grey cities, Sochi is a gem. Russians get misty-eyed at the mere mention of the name particularly since the collapse of the Russian economy means that, for most, Sochi is as remote a destination as the Seychelles or Barbados.

It is a 36-hour train ride from Moscow to the Black Sea coast. There was excitement as the train drew in to Sochi station. Hordes of eager holidaymakers crowded on to the platform, jostling to enter this roubles a night (£3). My hostess paradise. When the crowds cleared I made my way to the booking hall, haunt of that most useful species, the dispatcher.

The dispatcher arranges the B&B accommodation, vital to anyone travelling on a budget in Russia. He spoke no English,



and I no Russian, but after a bit of frantic arm-waving, we agreed on a price range and I was taken to a suitable host. I was given a bed in a spotlessly clean triple, with kitchen and bathroom attached, all for 30 gave me tea and sandwiches, then lent me a map so that I could explore the town.

Sochi sits on a thin strip of land wedged between the Cancasus mountains and the Black Sea. War-torn Abkhasia is a few miles to the south, and Chech-

nya lies to the north east, but there isn't the slightest hint of menace on the trim streets of the resort. Neat gardens, trailing wisteria, and pensioners strolling on the promenade give Sochi a thoroughly English air: Torquay, perhaps, since there are definitely flashes of

Faultu Towers here.

At the tourist desk in the giant Hotel Zhemchuzhina I asked the receptionist what there was to do in Sochi.

"Nothing," she replied. She paused, considered for a moment, and repeated "No. Nothing. People come to Sochi to do nothing. Would you like to see the list of activities the hotel can arrange?" She handed me an old Intourist brochure, in English, with pictures of happy Soviet citizens windsurfing, water-skiing horse-riding "But most people do nothing." Why?

She shrugged: "This is Russia." She was right. The pebbly beach was dotted with people doing nothing. Even in the bars, people drank vodka with less than the usual energy. The arboretum was the busiest

place in town. The Sochi arboretum is Russia's biggest, and the displays of rare and exotic plants are truly spectacular. The grounds are huge, with winding paths and glorious vistas. Italianate villas, statues and a cable-car all hide away among the giant ferns and bamboo. It is a long climb to the highest point of the park, but the views compensate. Caucasian peaks drop to tea- The harbour at Sochi

the sea. Far along the curving coastline, the distant hills of Georgia are visible.

Sochi harbour was beautiful in the fading orange light of a Black Sea sunset. A few fishing boats bobbed at anchor, and the air was filled with the enticing smell of cooking. The local specialty is shoshlyk, a sort of Caucasian shish kebab. The similarity with Turkish cuisine is not surprising; the Turkish town of Trabzon is only five hours away by hydrofoil.

Sochi may be the most popular resort in Russia, but the most exclusive lies a few miles along the coast. The Dagomys complex was built by Intourist in the mid-Eighties as a showcase for the tourist facilities of

clad hills, which sweep down to the Soviet Union. It has all the amenities of the big Spanish re-sorts, and most of the architectural merit, too.

A third of the 1,700 rooms here overlook the coast, with a view of electricity pylons, a substation and the main railway line to Georgia. Beyond that lies a pebble beach of unexpected cleanliness.

The railway station in Sochi

cope with the expected floods of visitors. This rather touching faith in the future of the tourist industry is surprising. The break-up of the Soviet Union has reduced the numbers of people who can visit this area without a visa. The East Germans, Czechs and Poles of 10

years ago have been replaced

Richard Naisby

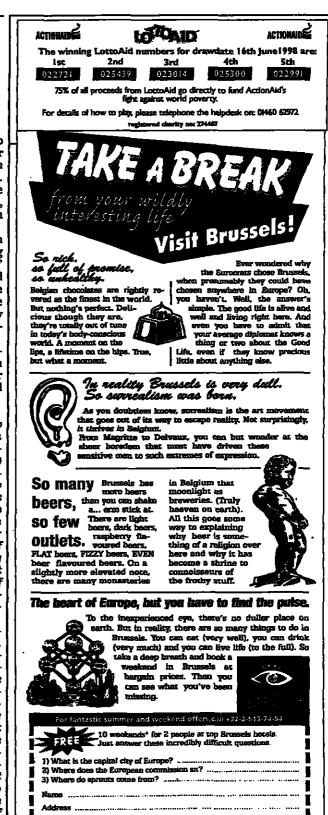
to resorts in the Ukraine or Baltic States. Few Western tourists come to the region. Most, it seems, are put off by the proximity of the trouble spots, though there is no violence in

Sochi The lack of familiarity with Westerners has some amusing consequences. Faulty Towers Manuel might have been proud is slowly being modernised to of the local English language guide. It waxes lyrical about the area, praising the "notoriously pleasant climate" and "interesing cooking".

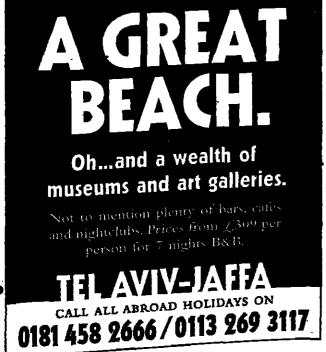
As long as there is enthusiasm like that, Sochi will remain a rewarding destination for anyone seeking the quiet and the quirky.

The cheapest fare to Moscow may involve a journey via Helsinki; Finnair offers a return fare of around £350 through discount agents, travelling from Gatwick, Heathrow or Manchester. Non-stop flights from Gatwick or Heathrow to Moscow on British Airways are generally expensive for those not travelling as part of an organised tour; you may have more luck with Aeroflot (0171-355 2233), particularly if you book through a consolid ator such as IMS Travel (0171-224 4678).

Visitors to the Russian Federation require a visa. Obtaining one can be a frustrating and expensive business. All applicants require an invitation from an organ-isation in Russia. People booking an organised tour get this automatically; independent travellers have to arrange their own. Many Russian companies will supply the necessary visa support, for a fee, but it's not always acceptable to the Russian consulate where you apply. The Embassy of the Russian Federation has a premium-rate phone service explaining the requirements, on 0891 171271,



Send entries to Horsen Brussels, 111 B4 Bid Asspech, 1000 Brussels Beigit no later than the 15th of July. Witmers, chosen at random, will be informed the 20th of July, by telephone. Prus includes 2 nights accommodation in people over any weekend. It does not include travel or mests. For more gen bookings, cell STR on +33-2-513-74-84 or fax +32-2-513-82-77.



Win a weekend in café society

Answer a few simple questions, and you could win a holiday for two in one of the coffee capitals of Europe

SURELY YOU remember your first cup of coffee in a strange land? Sipping a strong. dark, rich concoction among company of which you are not entirely certain is one of the most powerful rites of passage for travellers - right up there with the first, cringingly embarrassing passport photograph.

There are few more satisfying components of travel than the European café. It is artfully synchronous with the seasons: after the first tentative outings of spring, the tables sprawl across the boulevards all summer long before being wafted away by the autumn. Then, as the year slides into the gloom of November, the café interior comes into its own as an all-embracing den of humanity.

Each café contains its own complex society Smart addresses in Paris are strictly stratified: your position on the terrasse, in the salle or at the comptoir defines you as a first, executive or economy-class tourist. Across in the former Eastern Bloc, many cafes remain fervently and endearingly egalitarian. At these strongholds for the working man and woman, your Pilsner arrives accompanied by philosophy.

Where, though, is Europe's repository of cafe chic? Austria, France, Spain and Italy can each make a forceful claim to the title. Every traveller has his favourite venue; my ideal retreat is parked on the most prominent street corner of one of the great nodes of Europe.

Winston Churchill cited Trieste as the southern terminus of the Iron Curtain. This nominally Italian city is thoroughbred Austro-Hungarian, and lies pinioned against the Adriatic by Slovenia. So you get a good mix of people at the Caffe San Marco.

Every customer makes a theatrical entrance through a doorway that doubles as a proscenium arch, and becomes part of the drama played out at the Pinteresque pace of the creakiest old waiter.

Heavy tables, stained to a uniform shade of mahogany, are guarded by stern, high-backed chairs that glare across the polished floor at a bloated leather Ottoman.

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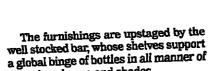
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alarming shapes and shades. The players are equally heterogenous - in age, appearance and gender. Giggling students slurp drinks in primary colours; men with faces as creased as croissants play out their final moves on a chessboard. When the ensemble is multiplied to infinity by a platoon of tall mirrors, you feel as if the whole of Europe has converged on a Trieste street corner.

In the European network of cafe connections. Trieste is closely linked with Vienna and Venice - the first two venues on offer as prizes in our competition. A weekend for two in one of these cities or Paris, or Madrid - can be yours in return for answering three questions and

adding a zesty tie-break The Café Crème Guide to the Cafés of Europe 1998 is a glossy new guidebook that takes you on a cafe tour around the Continent from Bath to Berlin. The writers adopt the same policy as the travel pages of The Independent: the guide is independent in its editorial selection, and does not accept free hospitality from any

café mentioned. So The Independent is pleased to launch, in association with The Café Crème Guide, a competition that could win you a weekend break in one of the great café societies of Europe.

Today and for each of the next three Saturdays, we will be offering a great weekend for two. You will receive a return flight from London (Eurostar in the case of Paris); transfers to a three-star hotel for two nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation; £100 spending money; and a copy of The Cofe Crème Guide Twentyfive runners-up will each receive a copy of the book, which retails at £12.99. If you are unlucky this time around, you can buy a copy at a special price of £9.99, includ-ing postage and packing; just call our hotline on 01582 842112.

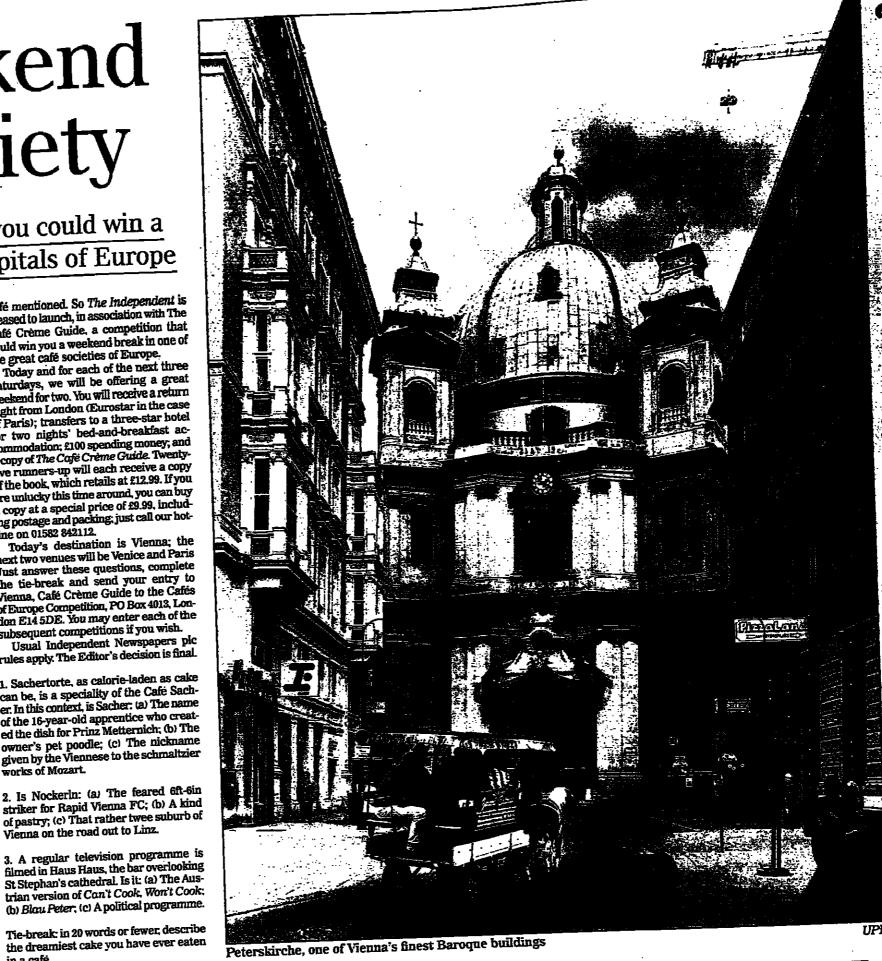
Today's destination is Vienna; the next two venues will be Venice and Paris Just answer these questions, complete the tie-break and send your entry to Vienna, Café Crème Guide to the Cafés of Europe Competition, PO Box 4013, London E145DE. You may enter each of the subsequent competitions if you wish.

Usual Independent Newspapers plc rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

1. Sachertorte, as calorie-laden as cake can be, is a speciality of the Cafe Sacher. In this context, is Sacher: (a) The name of the 16-year-old apprentice who created the dish for Prinz Metternich; (b) The owner's pet poodle; (c) The nickname given by the Viennese to the schmaltzier works of Mozart.

2. Is Nockerln: (a) The feared 6ft-6in striker for Rapid Vienna FC; (b) A kind of pastry; (c) That rather twee suburb of ienna on the road out to Linz.

(b) Blau Peter, (c) A political programme. Tie-break: in 20 words or fewer, describe the dreamiest cake you have ever eaten in a café.



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Nicola Barranger

Where M Hulot lost his head

Nicola Barranger enters a Jacques Tati time-warp called St Marc-sur-Mer, site of the comic classic M Hulot's Holiday

Jacques Tati, or even Hôtel Hulot, if you come to St Marc-sur-Mer in Brittany. If you want to immerse yourself in the atmosphere of 1953 and share the same lodgings as M Hulot, you will have to check in - as he did - at the Hôtel de la Plage. The hotel's name has never changed; indeed, apart from some post-war rebuilding, St Marc itself has changed little.

Unless you are a Mastermind specialist on the films of Jacques Tati, there is little to welcome you to the location of Monsieur Hulot's Holiday. St Marc is not a town in its own right, but a district of the port of St Nazaire. Exploiting cinema fans is not a priority. At the end of May, the tourist office was closed and my request for Tati information at the sub-office of the Mairie was answered with a shrug. Don't expect an Americanstyle visitor's centre here. There is one small tabac, no souvenir shop and certainly nowhere to see the

IT'S NO good looking for Hôtel black-and-white film that won the French actor/director/writer a string of film awards in 1953.

No one knows exactly what prompted Jacques Tati to visit St Marc in that summer of 1952. It was only his second film and from July to October that year any unsuspecting visitor who checked in to the Hôtel de la Plage might have found himself playing an extra or - perhaps worse - being told to keep out of the way of filming.

Les Vocances was M Hulot's cinematic debut. As with most Tati films, the plot (amiable social misfit joins holiday-makers beside the sea) is virtually irrelevant. It was the vignettes of modern life that fascinated Jacques Tati.

International audiences loved the visual and particularly the aural humour that underlined his social observation. For Tati, sound effects were essential. Dialogue itself didn't interest him. It was the pitch and intonation of words that he chose to

parody. You need no French to sympathise with the holiday-makers at the railway station in the film. The tourists race from one platform to another, unable to make out a word of the distorted, squawking station announcements. In all Tati's films, the director of sound had his work cut out choreographing squeaking shoes or spluttering cars. In Monsieur Hulot's Holiday there was the restaurant door which "kerplunked" every time it swung open or closed; in Traffic the women who yacked in time to windscreen wipers; in Playtime the soft chairs that gently broke wind when sat on. But Tati's humour was subtle and underplayed (you wonder how much inspiration

while others guffawed helplessly. You won't have any problem cognising the shots from Mon-

Inspector Clouseau drew from M

Hulot) but tuning in to his language

of observation could take a little time.

Some people in his cinema audience

would sit quietly, slightly bernused.

sieur Hulot's Holiday if you go to the beach at St Marc. Until recently the two-star hotel was owned by the same family as in Tati's time; unlike so many other Hôtels de la Plage throughout France that have been separated from the sands by urban development, St Marc's remains. literally, on the beach. As in the film, from the terrace you can step down straight on to the sand. There are just as few undernanding entertainments - the charming, picturesque beach, organised games for children, swimming, rowing, just walking and admiring the view. No more donkey rides, though. France has been cleaned up dramatically since the Fifties.

However, there is one, significant and recent change at St Marc-sur-Mer. High on a promenade overlooking the beach stands a statue of M Hulot. "We've been thinking about it for several years," says Jean Failleur of the main tourist office in St Nazaire. "We decided that it was about time we paid tribute to Tati." The sculptor, Emmanuel Debarre, a friend of the Tati family was invited to represent the much loved director. Debarre, who is best known for his abstract work, has portrayed Hulot in classic pose - hands behind his hips, weight over the toes, bending forward slightly at the waist. "I wanted to do a living image," he says, "and I'm delighted that the people of St. Marc just love it. They've taken him straight to their hearts."

Visitors love him, as well. "Apparently, one or two visitors haven't realised he was a statue," says Debarre. The figure has the familiar flat-backed hat, and trousers that are just a little too short. What he does not have, however, is his pipe. Not that Mr Debarre omitted to craft the famous accessory, but within 36 hours someone had swiped it - not that easy, since the statue is bronze.

M Hulot is contemplating the sea. Half-close your eyes, and he is about to take off in the direction of the pipe-

swiper, his arm outstretched, shouting "Ah, mais non!" While the local authorities like to blame souvenir hunters, Emmanuel Debarre is more pragmatic. "First it was the pipe, then within two months the face had been hit with a hammer." The council has now installed floor-level floodlights and has commissioned Debarre to redo the head. Visitors to St Marc this summer, however, are unlikely to be confronted by a headless Hulot, "Fortunately I've kept the cast," the sculptor explains. "I can prepare the new head in the studio and then go

over to St Marc to replace it." If a similar statue to a former hero had existed in the film, no doubt Jacques Tati would have used it to great effect.

Reaching St Nazaire takes three hours by train (0990 300003) from Paris or about two hours by car from St Malo. Brittany Ferries (0990 360360) has a daily overnight service to St Malo from Portsmouth.

See Naples and haggle

Extrovert and hectic, Italy's most colourful city is a melting pot of vibrant markets. Paula Hardy takes in the drama of the street theatre

THERE ARE many myths about Naples; it is violent, you'll get ripped off, every sweatshop in Italy is here. Admittedly, there is a grain of truth in all this, but it comes nowhere close to describing the place.

This lawless, petulant city lies in the heart of what the Romans dubbed compania felix (happy land) and topographically Naples has certainly been blessed by the gods. Hugging its huge curving bay, it sits in the shadow of Vesuvius, Europe's most dangerous pressure cooker and not only geologically speaking.

Certainly, a city of two million anerchists does not make a recipe for a quiet life, and Naples definitely has its own way of doing things. However, the Neapolitans are anarchist only in that they don't follow other people's rules. Hardened by centuries of foreign domination - the Greeks, the Romans, the French, the Spanish, the Austrians, the Spanish again, and finally Italian rule in 1860 - the people of Naples have learnt to rely on their wit and cunning, and here in this city of counterfeit culture it is advisable to take nothing at face value. In Naples, deception is a creative tool.

The Neapolitans can be over-

Despite struggling to make ends meet, Maria and Marcello, Albanian when we dropped by. Living in a oneroom tenement in one of the city's oldest and most notorious districts, the Spanish Quarter, they entertained us handsomely, offering us cigarettes and small cups of thick, sweet coffee, more Turkish-tasting than Italian, a relic of their Macedonian roots. In Naples, it seems, any lack of hospitality is seen as

downright meanness of spirit. Like many other Neapolitans, Maria and Marcello make their living in the city's famous marketplaces. Similar trades cluster in the same alleyways, and what at first appears to be a motley array of goods is, in fact, a carefully ordered system. The Via del Duomo is the obvious location for bridal wear; Via dell'Annunziata is naturally for baby clothes; designer boutiques and antique shops occupy Piazza dei Martiri, and second-hand books can melodramatic, extrovert and hectic. be bought on Via Port'Alba, near Piazza Dante.

Neatly dissected by the Via Toledo, which runs north-south, and Spaccanapoli, which runs east-west,

whelmingly friendly and hospitable. the city is fairly easy to navigate, although even as you head purposefully for one market you are almost Gypsies, gave us a royal welcome guaranteed to get waylaid by another. There is the Corso Malta euphemistically termed scarpe scompagnete - "unaccompanied shoes"; there is the large weekend flea market, held twice monthly in the Viale Dohrn; there are numerous food markets, the most picaresque being the one in Pignasecca, north up the Via Toledo as you head towards Vomero; and then there is the mother of all markets, known to

the locals as the kasbah Forcella. Situated around the main railway station, Forcella is Naples' most famous slum. Although desperately run down, it has an atmosphere and an attitude that preclude pity. And at the kashah you'll find Neapolitans entrepreneurial enough to try to sell you your own grandmother. This is street theatre at its best - heated,

Forcella was established as a black market at the end of the Second World War, when there was nothing that could not be obtained there at a price. Today, the area is

one huge open-air market, which still does a roaring trade in shady goods. If you are not in the market for these, there are still plenty of bargains to be had. At the top end of the countershoe market, where you may find feit market are good copies of Etyourself being talked into buying the ruscan vases and ancient bronzes; these are closely followed by excellent quality leather goods which could almost be mistaken for genuine Gucci or Louis Vuitton.

Perhaps the most bizarre of all the markets is the crib market on Via San Gregorio Armeno in Spaccanapoli. It originated in the 17th century, and more than any other market it illustrates the Neapolitan tendency for sentimentality and showmanship. At Christmas, lavishly decorated terracotta scenes from the market adorn churches and houses all over the city. Last year brought two exceptional additions to these nativity scenes; you can now buy a Princess Diana or a Mother Theresa along with your shepherds and three Wise Men. Although, obviously, more atmospheric at Christmas, the market is well worth a visit even in summer.

In Naples, religion shades into simple superstition, and lurid neon



shrines in niches are dotted along the In the back streets of Naples, city of 2m anarchists Hutchison (0171-408 1254)

labyrinthine streets of the old town. Gambling is also a favourite pastime, and football and the local lottery are approached with a similar fervour Even today, gamblers employ the cabbala (a Jewish system of numerology) to predict winning numbers. Alternatively, you can visit the Cimitero delle Fontanelle, in Sanità, to touch the revered capitano (a skull that can reputedly predict winning lottery numbers, as well as curing rare diseases).

Naples, utterly compelling in every way, is a city of extremes. You may find you hate it as much as you love it - but one thing is guaranteed: you won't forget it in a hurry.

British Airways (0345 222111) flies daily from Gatwick to Naples. Charters are available through Italy Sky Shuttle (0181-748 1333). Summer fares from London cost around £200 including tax. Or try for a £100 flight from Stansted to Rome on Go (0845 60 54321): you can save considerably by taking a train from Rome Termini station; trains to Naples take two to three hours. Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes Street, London W1R 8AY

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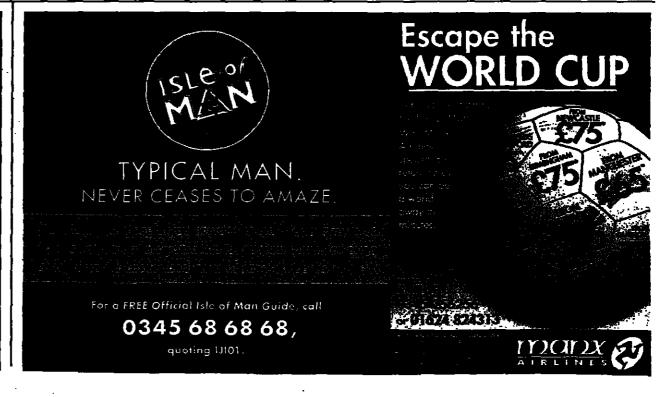
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Dances with the Senator



Pow-wow dress code – anything goes, but the more flamboyant the better

Watching Indian ceremonial dances used to be a hair-raising experience for palefaces - in more ways than one. Today, writes Lynne Patrick, you can see the spectacle and keep your scalp intact

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trampled over their sacred places, and how re-spect for the spirit of the Earth has flown out of the window and led to environmental havoc.

That word, respect, kept coming up. A wise Indian sat beside me at dinner. They're not all wise, he told me with a twinkle; some know as little as the white man. But his tribe holds him in esteem, and has given him the title of Senator.

I asked him what a visiting Brit should wear to pay prop-er respect to that quintessential Indian occasion, the

pow-wow. He looked puzzled. "You wear what feels comfortable," he said. "I'll be goin' dressed just as I am now." In the classiest restaurant in town, he was in cotton slacks and T-shirt. Wise Indian that he was, he turned down a brandy with his coffee. He told me that he was having a hard time pulling out of alcoholism - along with half his race. This was a legacy of the white brand of wisdom; before the 18th century there was

no booze in North America. Next day at the pow-wow there were signs forbidding alcohol and that other manifestation of white wisdom: firearms. There was also a car park filled with row upon row

of elderly, boneshaking station wagons, and thousands of brown-skinned people, mostly in jeans or shorts and skinny tops. I had decided on a cotton jump-suit, with sun block to cover the parts my straw sombrero failed to reach. Some things have changed; but not the Midwestern summers.

It was hot and dusty and noisy and colourful. It wasn't the picture evoked by a thousand Hollywood movies: circles of buffalo-hide teepees, straightbacked braves in feathers and war-paint, a peace pipe going the rounds of venerable elders. There were a dozen or so tumbledown food shacks; and some of the traders sold leather and beadwork, amulets of fragrant herbs and polished wood. But there was also the kind of entrepreneurial style you'd expect at any carnival; ice-cream carts, hot dog stands, children begging for balloons. Every wagon was doing a spanking trade in Coke; an iced six-pack is essential equipment in Wyo-

serve put me straight on the relationship between picturesque history and modern reality. "Pow-wow used to be a ceremonial gathering. They travelled on horseback or on foot, and it would take days, weeks. months, to make the journey. They would feast, meet their friends and hold special ceremonies, such as the sun dance. Today pow-wow is a dance festival, with prize money for the best dancers in each category grass dancers, jingle dancers,

fancy dancers." That was as far as the conversation could go; a highly efficient sound system began to fling out wailing music and a compelling drumbeat. I offered respectful thanks to the chief (his name was Melvin) and followed the vibes. It all seemed to be happening under a vast, barn-like canopy. I was one of a mere sprinkling of whites in 1,000 or so people perched on tiered, rickety seating around the stamped-earth arena.

The dancers stood out from

The chief of the host re- the crowd like Sixties movie posters. Beads, bells and trailing fringes festooned their brilliantly coloured costumes. Some had huge, feathered bustles fanning out behind them; others sported face-paint in scarlet and black. One stood, muscles a-ripple and glistening with sweat, warrior brave writof Indian values is the ritual naming of children by tribal elten all over his polished bone breastplate. I swallowed my indigenous yellow streak and asked if I could take his picture. "Sure," he grinned. "Shall I take my glasses off?" Looking around, I spotted several more bespectacled warriors. Close by

the drums were pounding. Americans are famous for their informal friendliness. "My grandma sewed my costume, a respiendent teenager called Little Eagle told me. His grandma herself turned out to be a jingle dancer, with rows of silver bells stitched to her calflength blue dress.

My new friend led the way back to the arena, gathering up two small competitors from a neighbouring camper van. "I'm pair. "I'm Rising Sun," said his companion. When the white man was trying to impose his brand of civilisation on the Indian peoples, the authorities insisted on white-sounding names for their official records. Now one sign of the resurgence

was another friend I made. Under the shade of a canopy, a dozen or so grass dancers were preparing to display their prowess. The music began, and they pounded the earth with their soft leather boots. The steps were precise, but full of passion. Afterwards they lined up to await judgement. I was glad it wasn't my decision. Technical skill aside, the prize money from this and other pow-wows is often all the income a dancer's family has. On the reservations, 80 per cent un-

ders. Five-year-old White Crow

employment is a good figure. The master of ceremonies announced a short recess before the Grand Entry. It sound-

erested in brach. I stood in line for buffalo stew and fry-bread, bread turned out to be a large savoury doughnut, densely chewy. I noticed that the commercial fried chicken wagon had the longest queue.
The seats around the arena

were packed for the Grand Entry Chiefs in tribal regalia followed dancers in full fis, smooth-skinned princesses ps aded in white buckskin, their glossy, waist-length hair sparkling with beads. Melvin led his elders, a cascading head-dress atop his Brooks Bros shirt. Then it was the turn of the musicians to take a bow. That was when I realised that the haunting music was not the product of hi-fi technology, as I had assumed, but live, made by singers clustered round drums the size of coffee tables. The air fizzed with the spirit of the Earth, that is so intrinsic to the existence of the native American people that they feel no need to invent a word for it.

I stayed until sundown. The pow-wow went on into the small hours, long after the mosqui-toes had driven me to seek cover. I felt privileged to have been a part of it.

For details of pow-wows, write to Book Publishing, PO Box 99,

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Across America by Greyhound – the quintessential US experience

Greyhound bound

That Summer In the first of a series recalling memorable journeys, Sophie Campbell remembers

her rite of passage through the US

imped steam up into a blizzard. The

bar in Gardiner was full of huge, pissed

beardies, like the cast of an American

road movie, who warned us about griz-

zlies, guns and hitching. "Big Grizz!" one

of them kept slurring, chequered arms

held high, "Big Grizz could take your head off, like that."

We found a college friend of Al and Ken's working in the park, stayed

illegally in the men's dorm, ate nature burgers (organic food? What was that?)

Then we got back on to the bus for

a three-day stint from Salt Lake City to

Norfolk, Virginia, entering that twi-light zone of travel known only to Grey-

hound users. They haven't changed

much, Greyhounds. I went on one re-

cently and it still made me feel poor. Peo-

nle on long-haul bus rides are people

who can't afford domestic flights - and

that, in America, is poor. So you get

hauled out in the middle of the night to

change buses or cross borders, and the

and the seats are never big enough for

lockers are never big enough for a pack,

We stayed with friends in Norfolk and

then moved on to Washington. People sat

in rows in Greyhound stations, watching

TV (a quarter for 20 minutes). The

same jingles played endlessly on different channels: "Have a Datsun, it's good

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and learned all about Jerry Garcia.

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wiches - after a hippyish sort of evening running about catching fireflies in jam jars and singing "The Streets of London" The sandwiches tasted OK. As firsttimers, how were we to know? Until the purple shirts of the band in a local bar shot across the room and wrapped themselves around our eyeballs, and people from long ago and far away began We had to be taken home and put to

bed, like five-year-olds after a family wedding, and listen to guilty hippy whispering insinuate itself under the door ("You gave them too much". "I didn't." You did.") That didn't make the diary, I can tell

whispering right in our ears.

ringing in my head today. We detoured

to wild, untamed Niagara Falls - or

rather, the honeymoon motel capital of

the western world - up to Montreal and

And after all that, after all those

thousands of miles and border crossings and adventures, nemesis chose to pre-

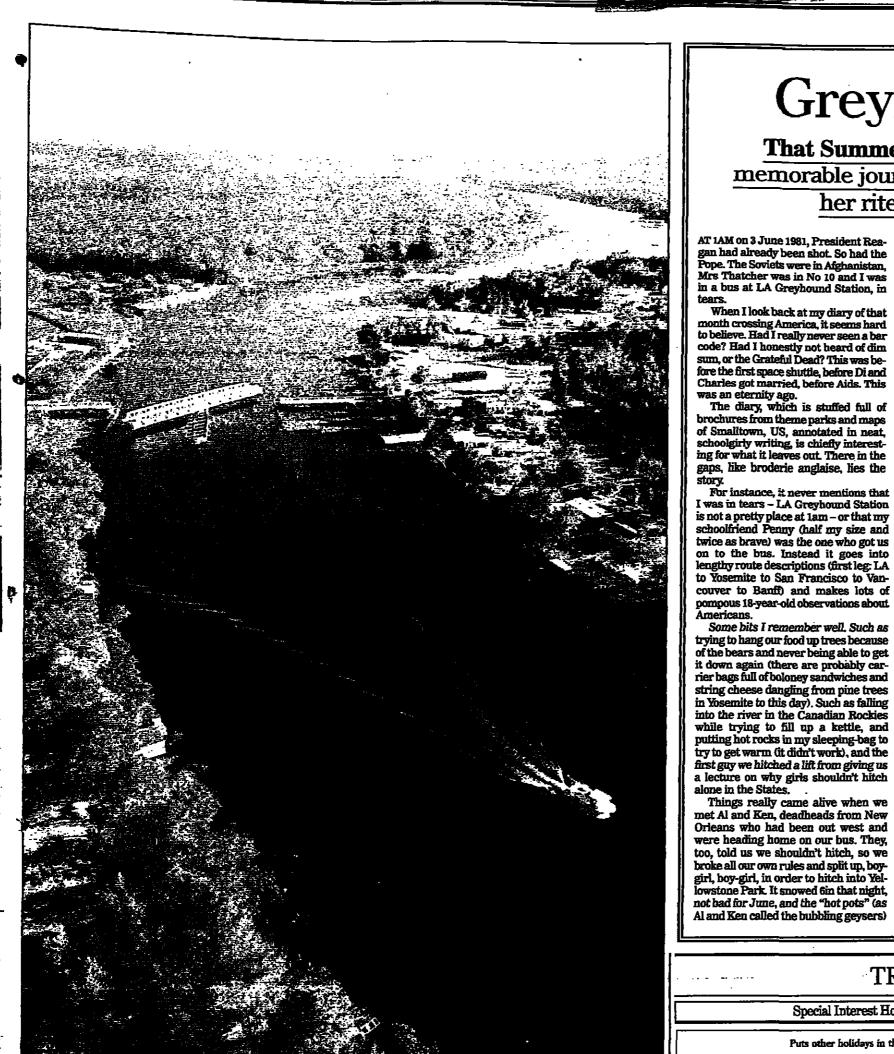
sent itself in Hartford, Connecticut, one of the most famously boring places in

It came in the form of Wazoo - com-

mune dweller and spiker of hash sand-

back down to the States.

you. The diary was meant to be about My Trip Across America, not some adolescent rite of passage. Back then, of course, I didn't realise that they were one



Wild, unspollt, éven wonderful – Florida's St John river

Deliverance!

Houseboating down Florida's St John's river? Good idea but watch out for uninvited guests. By Cleo Paskal

lorida never ceases to amaze and horrify. For the travel snob, a trip there may be considered the cultural equivalent of a visit to a mall. But behind the theme parks, away from the traffic-accident-strewn highways, there another Florida, one that is wild, unspoilt, even wonderful.

This year my family of four decided to go houseboating down the swollen St John's river. It took less than an hour to drive from Orlando to the marina in Deland, an area of lush swamps, willows dripping Spanish moss, and vast tracts of beautiful and varied parkland.

When we arrived, a cheerful blonde girl brought us over to our boat, the Chief 4. Boat? The thing was a floating two-bedroom apartment, complete with fully equipped kitchen, air-conditioning, shower and front porch barbecue. We carried in our basic supplies, then watched a 20-minute

instructional video on Chief 4's VCR. The friendly man on the tape vaguely mentioned a generator, a motor, a septic system, a bilge pump, oil levels and other boating essentials. When it was over, we looked at each other. Was that it? Were we supposed just to take this expensive, floating liability out into the Florida outback? Yep. That was the idea. The blonde girl waved us good-bye and, with a lot of grinding of propellers and frantic consultations of the manual, we chugged off into the hinterlands, the theme from Deliverance

ringing in our ears. It had taken us so long to find the generator switch that, by the time we got under way, there was only an hour of daylight left. We had no choice; we would have to spend the night anchored in an offshoot of the St John's called Dead River.

The most terrifying aspect of Dead River was trying to get the family to co-operate (one with the front anchor, one with the back anchor, one steering, one shouting instructions over the chatter of the engine) to anchor our metal home without amining into the cypress trees or ending up in the middle of a shipping lane. In the dark. It was a bit like one of those surviveor-die corporate rural excursions.

When the last rope was attached to the

final cleat, we did what any group of urban tween would come maritime suburbs of warriors could be expected to do. We took lovely houses, each with its own pier a look outside, noted how peaceful and beautiful it was, then turned on the TV and made dinner in the microwave oven.

Dad was the first one up the next morning. I found him sitting on a chair on the front porch, his feet up on the picnic table.

We had visitors," he said. I looked around. We were in a shallow, narrow, dead-end river, surrounded by birdheavy cypress trees. There was no real shoreline, just marshland with fallen, rotting trees and cypress roots. It was neither

swimmable nor wadeable. Dad explained that he had been fussing around the kitchen when he saw two large, rangy dogs sniffing around on our front deck. They didn't seem dangerous but, to his expert eye, one of them looked "sneaky". Then, sure enough, Sneaky Dog started to cock a rear leg. "It was trying

to scent-mark my bloody boat." My indignant dad chased them off. They jumped into the water and disappeared into the swampy underbrush.

Given our remoteness, the whole thing seemed odd. Finally we settled on the coolest option and decreed them to be wild swamp dogs. After breakfast we prepared to move off. Sister was dispatched to the rear to liberate the anchor. We heard a shout and rushed out. She was staring at a spot about 5ft off our rear. I followed her eyes. There, lazing on a log, just next to where we had thrown out anchor in the dark the night before, was an enormous alligator.

Once we had learnt to spot them, we saw so many 'gators over the next few days that we didn't bother pointing them out. But your first is special. So we stared, took an embarrassing number of pictures, and very, very carefully pulled

up our anchor. We followed our waterproof map north, up the St John's River towards Lake George. We were heading towards Silver Glen Springs, one of the few spots in the area where the water was 'gator-less and

warm enough to swim in. Human habitation came in clusters along the river. Long stretches of cypress shoreline would break to allow for a marina, a restaurant, a petrol station. In be-

We took turns steering the boat, sitting on the roof deck watching the bird life (great blue herons, ospreys, egrets, eagles). trying to spot manatees and chatting to the bridge masters on the CB radio.

As we arrived at the entrance for Silver Glen Springs, the water became clearer, the bottom shallower and sandier. We rounded the final bend and, instead of seeing the fountainhead of the spring, we saw the rear end of another houseboat.

We slowly pulled alongside. A woman in the other houseboat, Ruth, mother of a family of four, shouted to us that their engine

had broken down. Could we help? We tied the houseboats flank to flank and Dad went over to have a look. He soon got their boat started and, in a fit of holiday spirit, the eight of us shared a big dinner aboard our boat. Our new friends were from California, lively and delightful. Over coleslaw and steak, we started to swap stories of life on the river, and Dad described our run-

in with the swamp dogs.
"Oh," said Ruth, "that explains it". She said that on their way up river, a weird-looking back-country guy in a small motor boat had pulled alongside. He carried a shotgun and looked hostile. He had shouted: "You got my dogs?" When Ruth and her family said no, the man wasn't convinced. He wanted to board their boat to search for them. Ruth refused, and after

an argument the man sullenly motored off. Mystery solved. Who could ask for a more Disney-perfect ending to a Florida

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لمكذا من ألاصل

AT 1AM on 3 June 1981, President Reagan had aiready been shot. So had the Pope. The Soviets were in Afghanistan, Mrs Thatcher was in No 10 and I was in a bus at LA Greyhound Station, in

When I look back at my diary of that month crossing America, it seems hard to believe. Had I really never seen a bar

code? Had I honestly not heard of dim sum, or the Grateful Dead? This was be-

was an eternity ago.

The diary, which is stuffed full of brochures from theme parks and maps of Smalltown, US, annotated in neat, schoolgirly writing, is chiefly interest-ing for what it leaves out. There in the

gans, like broderie anglaise, lies the

For instance, it never mentions that I was in tears - LA Greyhound Station

is not a pretty place at 1am - or that my

schoolfriend Penny (half my size and

twice as brave) was the one who got us

on to the bus. Instead it goes into

lengthy route descriptions (first leg: LA

to Yosemite to San Francisco to Van-

couver to Banff) and makes lots of compous 18-year-old observations about

Some bits I remember well. Such as

rying to hang our food up trees because

of the bears and never being able to get it down again (there are probably car-rier bags full of boloney sandwiches and

into the river in the Canadian Rockies

while trying to fill up a kettle, and

a lecture on why girls shouldn't hitch

were heading home on our bus. They,

too, told us we shouldn't hitch, so we

broke all our own rules and split up, boy-

girl, boy-girl, in order to hitch into Yel-

lowstone Park. It snowed 6in that night,

not bad for June, and the "hot pots" (as

Things really came alive when we

met Al and Ken, deadheads from New a human being - especially not for a

Al and Ken called the bubbling geysers) for yooooo ..." I can still hear the tune

Orleans who had been out west and Floridan or a Texan.

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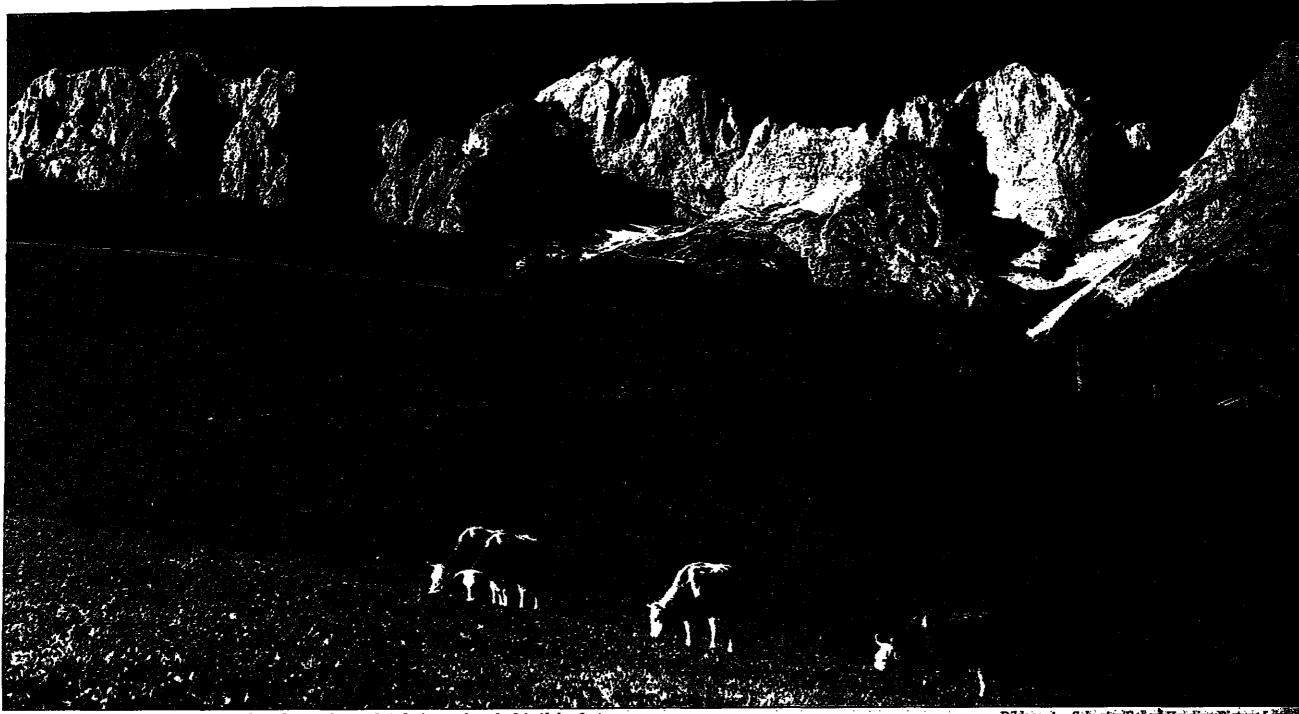
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might say (7,8) Omit character of English daughter in story (5) 12 They're always on

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15 Muddy animal's turned fearful (6) 16 A very loud tune for a fling (6)

18 Promising fellow in games, initially (6) 21 Intractable types those that test lawyers? (4,5) 22 Some probe literature

for reference marks 23 Like a pointless sentence? Happen rebel is in for reform (15)

24 Eastern lord established as first-born (6) Strong sharp letter en-

One clearing conges-tion, we hear, in the chest (6) Easy as the crow flies?

Present view of old tree

Performed like stars in film Reed directed (9) Like 'time and tide', in

a word (15) The cloth's upset about Sunday exodus? (6) Spies utensils hanging upside-down (6) Patsy's two little boys

14 We're told to observe Southern headlands in

paintings (9) 17 Looked lively? Dropped after game (6) 18 Uncultivated area with

the Spanish capacity for fruit, say (6) 19 Drive around Italy in carriage (6)

rent line (6)

20 Costume showing cur-Where's the play open-

kette rising above the aircraft as we made our approach to Innsbruck. The wall of cliffs and scree made me

tour hiking from hut-to-hut in the Karwendal Alps. The huts are found wherever there are mountains in Austria. And in the Karwendal there are about 40 such shelters connected by a comprehensive network of paths. Many of them are in passes, high alpine

meadows or close to summits. All are easily accessible - on foot. The beauty of a hut-hopping holiday is that you don't have to return to the valleys each night for a bed and food.

From Innsbruck, our first 400m of ascent to the hamlet of Hochzirl, was courtesy of Austrian Federal Railways. The next few hundred metres were less easy. Our route took us up a track designed for four-wheel drive vehicles that would never know aching muscles. When we reached the edge of the forest, our track became a path and the mountain became steeper but we reduced the gradient by zigzagging up the slope. Now we were walking through flower-strewn meadows alive with the hum of insect life, and alongside effervescing mountain streams. Small herds of goats, and occasionally chamois, put in an appearance as if on cue from some alpine stage director. Everything was as I had imagined it would be;

... as Gordon Lethbridge discovered in the picture perfect Austrian Alps

wonder about the sanity of emalpine scenery. barking on a three-day alpine

The network of paths in the Tyrol are well signposted and colour-coded for difficulty, using the same system as for skiing (blue for easy, red for moderate and black for difficult - some climbing skills required). Distances and times are usually given on the signposts. Those used to hiking in British mountains should have no problem with red routes. It is not essential, therefore, to take a guide, but many people do. This not only takes care of any route finding difficulties - as an added bonus, a good guide is a mine of information on the alpine

environment, flora and fauna. After about five hours walking on the first day, we arrived at our first hütte. Some hut. Mountain inn would be nearer the mark. Solsteinhaus, far from being a crude shelter, was a large, three-storey building in typical alpine style. Common to all hitte, sleeping accommodation was in dormitories, or rooms with two to six beds. Food and drink were served all day and can best be described as hūtte cuisine: basic but tasty, and adequate and filling.

As food and drink are available all day, the *hutten* are also refreshment stops. But prices are at least 50 per cent more than in the valley, due mainly to

a pleasant hike in spectacular the cost of provisioning. Many of the huts cannot be reached

by vehicle, relying on cable-

ways, and occasionally heli-

copter, for supplies. That evening at Solsteinhaus was spent in the convivial company of other hikers of all ages. The local postman was up doing a stint as village goatherd and, accompanying mself on the zither, sang the traditional songs of the Tyrol.

We woke the next morning to the tinkling of goatbells and an aroma of coffee so strong you felt you had had your daily caffeine fix before touching a cup. After a hearty breakfast, it was downhill to Moslalm, an alpine meadow packed with sensual cliches. Here, we stopped at a small hut for lunch of Almudler, a sparkling drink of herbs and lemonade, and kaiserschmarren, a cross between a pancake and pizza served with wild

cranberry sauce. Most huts are owned by the Austrian Alpine Club or the German Alpine Club. However, some are privately owned and run by families who have brought their cows and goats up the summer pastures. Moslalm is one such place.

The next but on our itinerary was the magnificently sited Pfeishütte. Built on a bluff between two peaks, it looks down a steep-sided valley, making it oewlon@easynet.co.uk

the following day it was safty as short climb of a few hundred me tres to the ridge of the North kette. From here you can look down to the Inn Valley and land bruck, the Stubby Alps to the south and to the north of the Karwendal range From Hafelekarspitze, a peak on the ridge, you can see, on a clear day, Germany, Switzerland and Italy

Hafelekarspitze is the top station of the Nordkettenbalm, a cable car. This explained what had happened to a number of the families we had met that morning, and who seemed suddenly to have disappeared. The cable car's lower station was Innshruck making it a quick, convenient way down.

Yet use of the cable cars is not to be scorned. They provide easy access for those wanting to enjoy the exhilarating experience of walking the high ridges and peaks of the Tyrol. Along with the hiltten, they make the mountains accessible to all.

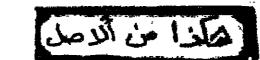
Flights direct to Innsbruck are scarce outside the skiing season. To Vienna, Lauda Air (0171-630 5924) flies from Manchester and Gatwick; British Airways (0345 222111) from Gatwick; and Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) from Heathrow.

Austrian Alpine Club, PO Box 43, Welvoyn Gorden City, Herts AL8 6PT (01707 324835) Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461); e-mail

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From holiday heaven to hell

Ah, the joys of cruising down the poplar-lined avenues of France. That is, until the bonnet starts belching smoke.

Vicky Trapmore offers advice on breakdown cover abroad

himmering roads lined with gently swaying Lombardy poplars, hot sunny days, trips to the beach, a car full of sand, seaweed and screaming kids. It's time to plan the joys of the summer getaway.

For millions of British travellers, this enduring image is conjured up in the office on wet June days, as they plan their holiday abroad. Many will take their own car and enjoy the luxury of not having to rely on public transport to get around Europe.

Sadly, not every trip will go according to plan. A survey by insurer General Accident suggests one in 20 travellers are likely to suffer from a car breakdown while abroad. The n most common problems are engine-related, and the average cost of emergency assistance is about £400. For those drivers who don't have ome form of breakdown cover, this dan be a heavy extra cost to bear.

Most British motor insurers offer breakdown cover for Europe. Typically, the cover includes bilingual roadside assistance, a tow to a garage if necessary, transport of spare parts and loan of a hire car if the vehicle cannot be fixed in time for you to continue your holiday. They will even bring your vehicle back home for you.

But the insurers' warning to motorists intending to cross the Channel is extremely simple: avoid the breakdowns before you even set off. Peter Staddon, of the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association (BIIBA) advises: "Three to four weeks before you go, have your car serviced by a recognised garage. Then if anything is wrong, you will have enough time

to sort it out." It is important to check with your insurance company whether your existing policy covers travel on the continent. Classic motorcycle insurance broker, Carole Nash, for example, includes European cover as long as the company is notified of the trip in advance. It also provides a Green Card free of charge.

The cheapest cover available over a two-week period is with Europe Assistance. Two weeks for a car or motor home which is less than 16 years old, or a motorbike of less than 11 years, will cost £43. There is an additional £10 charge for caravans.

The next best deal comes from Green Flag. Cars cost £45 to insure, with a £10 additional charge for caravans. Motor homes may cost more, depending on their size. Motorcycles below 200cc are also covered for £45. Vehicle cover usually includes the

following services: If a vehicle breaks down, catches fire or is stolen up to seven days before the trip, and is unavailable for the day of departure, a hire vehicle up to the same value will be pro-

Roadside repairs will be made if

· Tow to the nearest garage if nec-

· Location and transport of spare

 Accommodation provided while your own vehicle is being repaired. · Loan of a similar hire vehicle if your own is not repaired within a specified time (for example, after 24 hours with a Direct Line Rescue Policy, or after eight hours with Green Flag's European Motoring Assistance).

 Repatriation of the vehicle if it cannot be repaired during the course of the holiday.

While other breakdown companies provide these services as standard - although the maximum amount of available cover varies in cash terms - the AA has a Personal Travel Insurance Policy, which is entirely separate from its Five Star Europe Breakdown Cover.

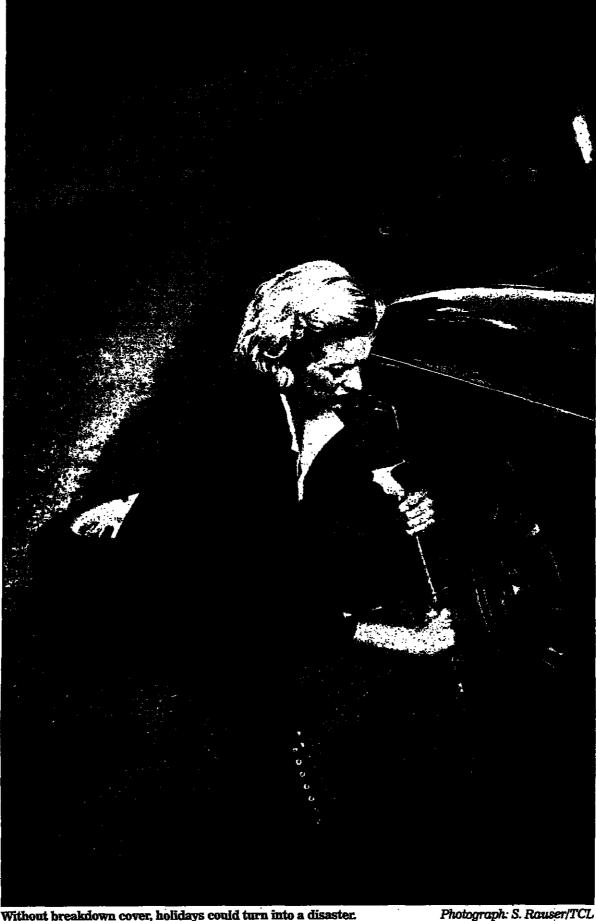
This additional service covers cancellations, car hire if a vehicle is unusable due to fire, theft, accident or breakdown seven days before departure, medical and legal expenses and loss of money, passport or

The entire cost of spare parts is not covered under any policy, and the AA is unique in offering a £100 contribution towards the cost of workshop labour.

Members of various motoring organisations are often eligible for a discount on European breakdown cover. RAC members receive a 10 per cent discount on all RAC European Motoring Assistance, while booking a ferry through Green Flag will entitle you to a 10 per cent discount on its European Motoring Assistance. It is worth considering your long-term travel requirements too. If you take your vehicle abroad more than once a year, an annual policy could work out cheaper in the long run. Direct Line Rescue, at an average yearly premium of £137, covers breakdowns for up to 90 days

Despite the hype from motoring organisations, is breakdown cover really worthwhile? Susie Thompson, a buyer's assistant at the supermarket chain Woolworth, certainly thought so: while on a six-month trip round Europe in a Y-registered Volkswagen Golf she broke down not once, but twice. Fortunately, she was covered by Europe Assis-

tance's breakdown policy. The first time was in Italy. "The car started gassing out white smoke and couldn't get up the hills. It was a nightmare. We called the Europe Assistance helpline They took us to a Volkswagen garage, and then liaised directly with them Europe Assistance would ring and speak to me, so I didn't even have to deal with the garage. Rotel accommodation was also arranged for us, until the car was fixed. I paid for everything, and then claimed the money back."



Without breakdown cover, holidays could turn into a disaster.

The second time was in Spain.

We were nearly at Barcelona when

the clutch went. Europe Assistance

were really good. They had some-

one to us within the hour, even

though it was nearly midnight, and

we were in a pretty remote area.

They picked us up and took us to a

hotel, and left the car at a garage.

The garage wanted to charge us

£500 for a new clutch, but I decided

it wasn't worth fixing. Europe As-

sistance paid for the car to be dis-

posed of and for the flight home from

Spain for me and my friend. They

also provided us with a hire car for

three weeks before the flight home."

one expense among many. You

could try your luck and not have any

problems. Or take out the cover and

become the motorist who suffers a

breakdown and waits on average 45

minutes for assistance. Or you

could become the one for whom the

notion of discovering Europe takes

on a whole new and exciting di-

Ultimately, breakdown cover is

DRIVING

ABROAD THINGS TO KNOW

♦ In most European countries you must be at least 18 years old to drive. ◆ It is a good idea to have a Green Card. This is an International Motor Insurance Certificate, which most insurance companies offer free of charge. It proves that your vehicle is insured to the necessary level required.

you at all times, as you must produce them immediately if asked. ◆ Check the laws of the countries you are visiting. In Italy you must have a fire extinguisher in the vehicle. French

brochures include a list of useful motoring terms in other languages. Take it with you!

· Carry your driving documents with

rules include carrying spare bulbs. ◆ Most insurance companies

COST OF BREAKDOWN COVER: THE FACTS

Company	Europe Assistance	Green Flag	Direct Line*	a two week peri	RAC	Churchii
Name of cover	Euro Driver Assistance	European Motoring Assistance	Direct Line Rescue	5.Star Europe	European Motoring Assistance	Churchill Abroad
Car	£43	£45	£38.48	£54.25	£50.50	£65.80
Caravas	£10	£10.	free	£35	£20	not avallable
Motorbike	£43	- £45	not available	£54.25	£50.50	not available
Motorhome	£43	7. E65	£38.48	£54.25	580.	not available

Jonathan Davis Column 5 Global Markets

Property: retiring to Spain, using the right toolkit, watery views 9-12

\$25,000 chance to touch Midas

FINANCIAL WIZARDS come and go, but George Soros surely has the Midas touch. In 1992 he bet against the pound and won, pocketing one billion dollars. Humiliated, sterling plummeted against the German mark and Mr Soros' reputation was complete.

Mr Soros himself is still principal investment adviser to his Quantum Group of Funds, which has performed spectacularly over the last 28 years, with an average annual return of 33.22 per cent.

Until now, doors to the funds have been all but closed, with UK retail investors having little opportunity to buy into them. You would need to have millions to invest directly in any of

But there is an indirect way in. The Fraternity Fund, an offshore fund run from the British Virgin Islands which invests in the Quantum Group, has a minimum investment of "just" \$25,000. Fraternity Fund management is now busy marketing the fund to independent financial advisers in the UK, who may in turn sell units in the funds to their retail

"I feel that the smaller socalled sophisticated investor should be allowed to participate in the broad-based group of Soros funds," says John Anthony, of the Fraternity Fund.

The Fraternity Fund officially began in its present form in 1994, he says. "It is a hedge fund, not a simple fund. Most people believe it has more risk - I have my own opinions," he says.

The fund, which has a net asset value of around \$8.3m, only invests in funds which are directly or indirectly advised by Mr Soros himself or by Soros Fund

Apart from the flagship Quantum Fund, other funds included in the Fraternity Fund are Quasar International, Quantum Realty, Quantum Industrial, Quantum Emerging, Asian Development, Quota and

Quantum Dolphin Returns have been re-

markable. An initial investment of \$100,000 in the Fraternity Fund in 1990 would have grown to \$1,153,003 today, Fraternity But the Fraternity Fund is

only suitable for the truly well-heeled who can afford to lose a substantial amount of their investment. It is an unregulated collective investment scheme for the purposes of the Financial Services Act and offers no investor protection.

Also, hedge funds do not operate on the same principles as standard market funds. Instead of broadly mirroring the market as a whole, they aim to achieve a good return whatever the market does.

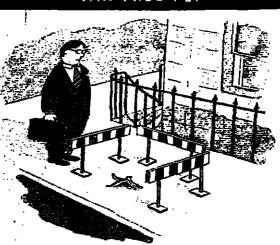
For example, if banks appeared likely to report better than expected profits while higher interest rates were hitting property shares, the fund might buy banks and sell any property shares it had to make a quick gain. "Many hedge funds will try to isolate situations where they can take advantage of arbitrage oppor-tunities," says Mike Newman of Best Investment Brokers.

"For larger investors there's definitely a case for having, where appropriate, some hedge fund exposure." he says, adding those lucky enough to have portfolios of £500,000 or more could have between 5 and 15 per cent of assets in hedge funds.

regulated with no investor protection, these funds rarely qualify for distributor status... so any gain will be treated as income," says Mr Newman.

tively high. The initial chargeis 5 per cent, and the annual charge is up to 2 per cent. If you withdraw your money in the first three years, you pay a charge of 3 per cent.

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Financial Makeover Collect to Invest

MICHAEL HARDERN is a persistent man. He must also believe his ideas will benefit the rest of us - why else would he waste millions of pounds of Nationwide members' money in his second attempt to climb on to the building society's board?

Mr Hardern, you may recall, is the former butler who put himself and a slate of supporters up for election to the Nationwide board last summer. His aim was to garner enough votes to show that the call for the Nationwide to demutualise - so its members could receive up to £1,500 in free shares ~ had massive backing. Nationwide members voted almost three to one against the "flotation candidates".

Undeterred, he is standing again this year. Moreover, his backers have also arranged for a motion to be voted on which explicitly calls on members to decide whether they want their society to be floated.

This time last year I argued that Nationwide members should vote against Mr Hardern's bid to join the board. It was not just that he and his friends were unlikely candidates to run a multi-billion-pound building society, but because I oppose demutualisation.

Let me be clear: I don't Nationwide. believe building societies are the ultimate in democratic financial institutions, nor that they always offer the best deals to savers and borrowers. What's more, the manipulation of members by Nationwide - witness the way its ballot papers are colour-coded to facilitate the

"right" vote – is annoying. Yet most societies do offer a better deal to members than banks. This week's announcement by the big societies that they are freezing their mortgage rates at least



NICK CICUTTI

The fight to keep the Nationwide mutual is on again. If it loses, we all do

until 1 August, while the Halifax, Woolwich and other former mutuals raced to raise theirs, is evidence. And look at the City's re-

action to the announcement earlier this week that Halifax and Alliance & Leicester would be raising their mortgage rates by 0.25 per cent. Shares rose. Borrowers will pay an extra £144 on a typical £60,000 loan.

Ah, you say, but mutuality isn't good for savers. whose rates - even if marginally better than a bank's - would take 50 years or more to give any tangible benefits to members. And there are 4 million borrowers to 1 million savers at

The reality, however, is that a person's relationship with their society changes. When you are young and buying a home, you will be a borrower. Later, when the mortgage is paid off and the kids have grown up, that situation changes. The benefits continue to flow, even if in a more gradual way.

If Mr Hardern succeeds. the Nationwide's demutualisation will hit us all as competition in the financial sector is weakened. We wait for the result with bated breath.

Time for the real world

PATRICK AND Claire have a problem: they have been students for longer than usual. They would like to "make amends" for the fact that they have not made enough contributions into their pensions and are wondering how to plan for retirement. The couple have a number of options. One of them is to buy additional years in their respective pension schemes, although this could prove expensive. A better solution might be to increase contributions into their schemes to the maximum they are entitled to, via employer-backed top-up schemes. Their savings could also do with a "tidy up".

Patrick and Claire spent much of their twenties studing for PhDs. As a result, although they are both now working - Patrick for the last five years, Claire for three and a half - the couple are several years behind in their retirement planning.

Both are members of their respective occupational pension schemes. Their final benefits will be determined by their length of service and their salaries at the time they retire, as opposed to money purchase or personal pension plans, where the final benefits are dependent on the value of the investment fund at

They have in excess of £51,000 in a variety of investment vehicles - £26,000 being on deposit, with the balance in unit trusts, PEPs and shares. Their present house in Bristol is valued at around £75,000 and they have a £33,000 repayment mortgage with the Abbey National, on a two-year fixed rate at 7.25 per cent, with one year left to run.

Patrick earns £18,500 and expects his income to rise significantly ahead of inflation over the next few years. Claire earns £17,500 and her pay will be linked to promotion, seniority and future, most probably meagre, local government pay awards.



Patrick and Claire want to make up for lost time

Christopher Jones

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: PATRICK PURCELL AND CLAIRE TONKINSON AGE: EARLY THIRTIES. OCCUPATIONS: RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT BRISTOL UNIVERSITY AND PROBATION OFFICER IN GWENT.

They save in the region of £200-

£300 per month. The adviser: Martin Mc-Mahon, director of Maddison Monetary Management, independent financial advisers with offices in Surrey, Bath and Nottingham (0800 0742233).

number of ways additional pension benefits can be improved for both Patrick and Claire.

First, they should examine buying added years in their

The advice: There are a

minus the contribution paid into schemes. This can be done by the main scheme, into an addimaking a lump-sum payment or tional fund which will supplean increased monthly contribution to the scheme. But it tends ment the main scheme's to be expensive: in Patrick's Third, they could contribute case, it would cost approximately

£11,000 for him to buy five years. untary contributions (FSAVCs). Second, the couple could make Additional Voluntary Contributions into their schemes. All occupational schemes have this facility, whereby a member can contribute up to 15 per cent of their pensionable earnings,

Commercial Union However, the charges levied on in-house AVCs are generally lower than FSAVCs, though the choice of investment funds can be more limited. Another plus point for FSAVCs is the greater flexibility attaching to the choice of retirement date: if you are planning to retire early the contract can be written to your intended retirement date. With AVCs the retirement date is the

same as the main scheme. In their specific case. Patrick and Claire should consider making single contributions for the ax vear into their

scheme AVC's. Equitable Life and Scottish Widows supply these, with a good choice of investment funds and consistent fund performance. They could certainly afford to do the same to free-standing additional vol-

under review as resources peravailable from insurance companies. There is plenty of choice Looking at their savings, in the market place: notable for Patrick and Claire have mangood fund performance and reaaged to save a considerable sonable charges are Scottish sum of money, but their invest-Equitable. Equitable Life and ments are lacking in strategy.

They have a broad spread of unit trust investments, including a GT Global US Growth Fund currently valued at around 510,000; Investco UK Growth Fund, current value £3,500 and an NPI Capital Investment Bond worth £1,000. They have placed their Woolwich shares into a PEP and also have a selection of other blue chip privatisation issues. Overall the equity portfolio looks well balanced.

Their deposit-based saving could do with a little tidying: they both have £3,000 in their cheque book current accounts paying dition they have £2,700 in various small deposit accounts. This sum could be used to fund their AVC contributions, as it is not makig significant returns here

They also have a Portman Building Society One Year Bond at 7.5 per cent gross, with £6,000 invested; a Bristol & West Six Month Bond at 7.45 per cent together with a Birmingham Mid. shires Tessa and National Savings 7th Index Linked Certificates. Having £26,000 on de posit probably means that their money is not working as hard as it might.

In fact, Patrick is happy to maintain £7,000/£8,000 in cash and to take a five to 10-year view of returns on equities. With this in mind, I suggest that over the next six months as the various fixed term bonds mature they move towards asset based m. vestments to include using their PEP allowance for this tax year. before it disappears.

If they are nervous about the short-term outlook for confirm they might consider the M&G Corporate Bond PEP which carries no bid/offer spread but has exit charges in the first five years. Saving £200-£300 per month means checking regularly that they are obtaining the best available interest rate.

At present Patrick and Claire feel that they do not need to insure their lives or their incomes With secure jobs that provide a package including death in service benefits worth two times salary, plus a pension for the survivor, combined with full salary for six months and 50 per cent for the following six months in the event of sickness or disabilnext year and keep the position ity, they could well be right.

However, I would recommend that they take up "decreasing term assurance" to cover their repayment mortgage. With £33,000 of the mortgage currently outstanding the bulk of the death in service beaefit would be used up. A reputable company such as Norwich Union would provide this type of cover for around £6.50 per month and for an additional £8.56 per month would extend the cover to pay out on the diagnosis of a critical illness such. as cancer heart attack, stroke.

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Finally, they should make their wills, not least because it ensures that what they want to happen to their estate happens, but also, as they have individual savings and bank accounts it would ease probate and generally smooth the passage of

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Signed (2nd applicant)

SPOTLIGHT

CAPITAL BANK FAST-TRACK MORTGAGE

product: Capital Bank Mortgages Fast-Track Mortgage Direct

The deal: Capital Bank is a subsidiary of Bank of Scotland. It is launching a telephonebased "flexible mortgage" aimed at people with "changing lifestyles". This means it allows borrowers to take payment holidays, make overpayments and underpayments and draw cash from the loan itself if they have made overpayments.

Loans: Up to 95 per cent of a 0.35 per cent throughout the entire life of the mortgage from the existing standard variable rate, currently 8.69 per cent.

Plus points: Flexibility has become one of the most over-used words in the mortgage lexicon, with increasing numbers of companies claiming theirs is the one to meet borrowers' needs.

early-redemption fees. Lump sums or regular overpayments can be made or up to six months of payment "holidays" taken Most significantly, the mort-

gage operates on a "daily rest" system, whereby interest payments are calculated on the day they are made, reducing the outstanding loan immediately rather than once a year. This system can cut many thousands of home's value, with a discount of pounds in interest payments from the typical cost of a loan over 25 years. Self-employed borrowers

seeking up to 80 per cent of a property's value are eligible for this loan, with an income multiple of 3.5 times one income or 2.75 times joint income on loans up to 85 per cent of a home's

This one does have some Drawbacks and risks: By re-

positive points. It can be moving the discipline whereby switched to a new home, there mortgage payments must be is no compulsory insurance or made every month without fail, transaction fees, valuation fees mortgages of this sort can hull are refunded and there are no borrowers into a false sense of security - only to hit them hard

should things go wrong.
The discounted rate is attractive, but then there are three cheaper options at present: Clydesdale Bank, which charges a variable rate currently standing at 8.2 per cent, and Legal & General's Elexible Reserve Mortgage, which is similar in its approach but currently charges 7.95 per cent. This second operates "monthly rests" for its loans. Finally, Tipton & Coseley Building Society charges just 7.69 per cent, albeit on a loan-to-value of 75 per cent only.

Verdict: A good idea reasonably executed, with a number of plus points, particularly for the selfemployed. But not the very best.

Marks out of five: Three and a

BARGAIN BASEMENT

THOMAS COOK is launching a combined emergency travel package called Premier Care. The package includes financial and other emergency assistance, from hotel booking to home delivery of travellers' cheques and interpreter service. It is accessible worldwide through a freephone number, day or night, 365 days a year, A 17day cover for Europe costs £48.85. Details from Thomas Cook shops.

THE BANK of Scotland is launching a 30-day Notice Account aimed at branch-using customers, offering guaranteed interest rates plus two penalty-free withdrawals a year. The rates paid rise from £4.82 per cent gross on deposits above £250 to 7 per cent gross on sums above £100,000. Interest is calculated daily. Call 0500 313131 for details.

THE NORWICH and Peterborough Building Society is to offer Internet Banking services to its customers. The new service, NetMaster, is linked to a savings account paying 7.5 per cent gross on deposits as low as £1. Netstatement details, bill payments and fund transfers. The service is free for the first six months. Thereafter personal accountholders pay £2.99 a month or £7.99 a month for business accounts. Call 0800 883322 or on website: http://www.npbs.co.uk

PREFERRED MORTGAGES, a specialist mortgage lender, is offering free title insurance cover for borrowers. The cover aims to protect from risks, including having no documented right of way or similar problems. Call 0800 009977.

CHARTWELL Investment Management is offering a free booklet. Fees V Commissions. which explains the difference between the two forms of remuneration for independent financial advisers, Call 01225 321700 for a copy.

WILLIAM RUSSELL, an insurance broker, is offering income protection, life cover and accident protection plans to expatriates, whom it says can face difficulties in obtaining this kind of insurance. The plans are underwrit-Master facilities include account summaries, ten by Zurich Life. Call 0044 1483 772245.

There are 10 and they can make fortunes. When a package of 10 Penny Blacks is auctioned all hell will be let loose in the stamp-collecting world. By John Windsor

for this envelope bearing 10 Penny Blacks, to be auctioned by Stanley Gibbons on Wednesday. It has everything going for it. It is the largest known multiple block of penny blacks ever found on a cover And covers are hardening in value now that sophisticated collectors are after "postal history" rather than stamps removed from the covers that were their historical context. Moreover it is a first-day

cover - posted on the penny

black's first day of issue, 6 May

SOME STAMP collectors would

give their right arm – or, perhaps, an estimated £250,000-£300,000 –

But by far the biggest attrac-tion is the penny black itself. It is not, as some people think, the rarest stamp. About 68 million were issued in the year before it was superceded by the penny red. But as the first postage stamp in the world, it will contimue to command pride of place in any collection - and to hire in-

As little as £25 will buy a used one in passable condition at auction. Now is the time to stockpile them, and the better the condition, the better the

In the West, today's children may prefer computer games to stamps, but thousands of newly rich adults in Asia and the Far East, particularly China and Hong Kong, are beginning to collect. They are all going to want their penny blacks.

At present, the Far Eastern economies are pausing for breath. And penny black prices have risen by only 5 per cent a year compared with 10 per cent for stamps as a whole, a sign that the first surge of newly rich collectors in those countries have already acquired their token penny blacks. But see what happens when they discover how many different varieties of penny black they can buy.

Investment in stamps has acquired a bad name since the boom and bust of 1979. In November of that year a speculative price spiral, accelerated by ver-the-top values in Stanley Gibbons' 1980 catalogue, culminated in crazy prices being bid at Sotheby's auction of the Vaduz collection of British and Empire rarities. The following day the market crashed as speculators vied to cash in their collections and dealers came to their

Speculators need to feel fenced in before they resort to buying stamps. It requires the economic conditions of the late Seventies - a stagnant property market, rising inflation and a scary stock market - before those get-rich-quick advertisements for stamps start to appear

Today, though property is dull and inflation is looming, shares have looked a better bet than stamps. There is no rush to buy stamps, although prices have been recovering steadily since

and researchers more sophisticated, and a forthcoming publication by Stanley Gibbons will fascinate them and help to revive the market. It is

a reprint of Charles Nissen's plat-

ing guide to penny blacks of 1922,

at present worth £400-£600 sec-

Here we plunge into the ar-cana of stamp collecting—the secret knowledge that turns collecting into an obsession. During the short life of the penny black the printing presses wore out 11 metal printing plates for the sheets of 240 stamps (12 if you count the retouching of plate one, which printed 10 million of them). Later plates printed fewer stamps, making penny blacks printed from them rarer and more valuable. But how do you tell from which plate your penny black

The clue is the stamps' letters in the two top corners. They are penny blacks are really worth.

Those who do invest are now in sequence along the rows: AA, AB, AC and so on - a device to deter forgery. Each letter was punched into the plate by hand, whether by one man or a team is not known. What is known is that whoever punched them had off days - a tiff with the wife, perhaps – so that some letters are ham-fisted, lop-sided or off-centre. These tell-tale variations will link each stamp to its

> That was Nissen's task. Using dated postmarks as a guide, he amassed enough penny blacks to reconstruct all 11 plates. His reconstructions were sold by Stanley Gibbons but his illustrated book survives. Armed with a reproduction of it, and a copy of Stanley Gibbons' Queen Victoria catalogue, which lists different values for penny blacks from different plates, collectors will be able to tell how much their

plate - if only a key to them can

Example: a fine or very fine used penny black from plate 1a is valued at £220 by Stanley Gibbons while an almost identical one, from plate 11, the last penny black plate, is valued at £1,600. This is a potential treasure trove for those with spare time, spare cash and a magnifying glass - especially retired people who used to collect in their youth. And Far

Eastern collectors, still mis-

trustful of Western ways, tend to

Beloved of rogues

trust catalogues. A reconstructed sheet of penny blacks - a collector's dream - was sold for £15,645 last year by Harmers, the London stamp auctioneers. Plate 11, incidentally, printed only 168,000 of the penny black before the

penny red replaced it. The new stamp was issued because rogues found that they were able to wipe off the Penny Blacks' red Maltese cross canceliation and resell them as un-

red stamps soon put a stop to Philatelic Society or the British There are plenty of other va-

rieties listed by Stanley Gibbons. Double letters - the sign of a punch-drunk engraver? will raise the value of a £150 used penny black (plate unspecified) to £200, more if the plate is known. There are also premium values for inverted watermarks. guide lines in the corners and profile clear" – specimens whose cancellation has not oblit-

erated Queen Victoria's head.

A block of four penny blacks is highly collectable - catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at a minimum £3,250 used. And, of course, unused specimens carry a big premium: a £150 used one would he £3,000 if it were unused, a block of four £14,000. It still pays rogues to remove cancellations and expertly reapply gum. So it will pay you to ask for a certificate of authenticity from a rep-

Philatelic Association.

You can still pick up damaged penny blacks in street markets for under £10. These are the ones with margins missing, the product of those nights when the postmaster sat up late with a pair of scissors, cutting the unperforated sheets by gaslight.

Ignore the damaged and the grubby. Better to invest £100 at auction in a fresh-looking profileclear, or more for a block of four - or one on a cover with a May 1840 postmark or a regional Maltese cross cancellation listed in the catalogue. You will have to do hours of homework before you can spot varieties and outwit the trade. Hours of fun, as

Stonley Gibbons, 399 Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 8444). Harmers, 91 New Bond Street,

HOW ANGELIC are you feeling? Back in March a new vebsite, the Development Capital Exchange (DCX) was launched, calling itself a "stock exchange" for investment in unlisted businesses. The concept of a clearing house for investment opportunities for socalled business angels is not a new one, but using the Internet as a conduit is.

Now the site has been up and running for a few months I have taken another look at it. All the opportunities listed on DCX have been put there by professional advisers of the firms looking for funding. You do not have to be a millionaire to be a business angel. While some of the companies are looking for sums of more than £2m, most of the funding requirements are beween £10,000-£200,000.

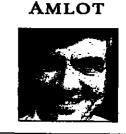
If you fancy taking a look at the investment opportunities on offer, it will cost you £15 for a trial three-month subscription or £50 for 12 months. The site lists about 200 businesses ranging from health products, property developments, car traders, gazebo makers to Internetbased businesses.

Do remember that it is up to you to check out the prospective investment or as they say in legal-speak, "the onus of due diligence rests squarely with the investor". Which is all very well but how do you begin to weed the wheat from the chaff?

Perhaps your starting point should be to check the names involved in the business. We have all become accustomed to investigative reporting in print and on TV exposing directors with nultiple corporate failures behind them. How can you make sure that you will not be entrusting your money to a rogue? Head straight for the Department of Trade & Industry's new website, launched this month by Companies House.

Companies House is the DTI agency responsible for keeping track of corporate Britain and, as such, it maintains a register of those directors who have been disqualified by the courts. This rogues' gallery is now avail-able on the Internet. It lists details of each person, including their name, address, date of birth, period of disqualification and the legislation under which the disqual-

INTERNET INVESTOR ROBIN



For anybody wanting to play angel to a fledgling business venture this is one of the most immediately useful websites on the net. It allows you to search by surname through the list of disqualified directors. Thus you may make sure that none of the people involved in the business you want to invest in have been barred from acting as a company director. This is, of course, only the first step in what should be an in-depth investigation.

It never ceases to amaze me how willing people are to hand over money. This willingness apparently explains the growing success of Internet gambling. It is, in fact, illegal to run an online casino in the UK although there is nothing, other than common sense, to stop a punter placing a bet with an online casino based offshore.

Anyone who really wants to give their credit card details to an Internet casino would probably be as well advised to stand on the corner of their street with a wad of used fivers and start tearing them up and throwing the pieces into the gutter.

Several of these virtual casinos are run by the kind of people that even Las Vegas gets alarmed by and you have no way of knowing what kind of odds you are facing or indeed, whether you will get your winnings should you actually win. If you really must play games on the web, stick to the apparently more socially acceptable "shoot-'em ups" which allow you to blast seven kinds of hell out of aliens, zombies or whatever

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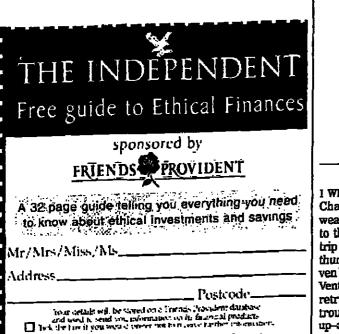
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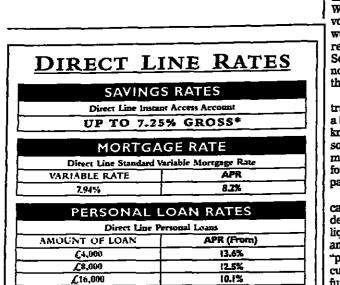
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TORA

of the day.

worth a candle.

the FTSE-100 index.

but I remain concerned that

It is hard to see the Government intervening to keep utility prices down. This would be artificial

I WENT sailing in the English the dilemma of where to invest. Channel last weekend. The money Moreover, problems in weather was hardly conductive Asia and the emerging to the type of gentle sea-born economies remain - and are trip which I seek. Rolling waves perversely driving money into our own and other developed thundered on to the shore, driven by the south-westerly wind. markets. Venturing into the forecabin to Last week, I wondered whether utilities would prove retrieve a pair of waterproof quite the defensive sector they trousers gave me such an up-and-down experience that I have in the past. Since then it

was put off my food for the rest seems they have done nothing but hog the headlines. Electricity, in particular, has come in The stock market has had much the same effect this week. for considerable publicity, with A 200 point shift in prices is further speculation on the Govnothing these days. With still ernment's stance towards gas more gloom from the Far East. fired power stations and the regulator calling for more com-Wall Street had a seriously nerpetition in power generation. vous day at the start of the As with so many investments, week, only to have the position good arguments exist on both reversed when US Treasury

Secretary, Robert Rubin ansides. Utilities offer high yields and less demanding share valnounced a support package for uations than elsewhere. On Our own market merely the other hand, they are subject trailed in the wake, taking quite to regulatory interference and could have a conflict between a buffeting as a consequence. I know how it felt. We have seen customers and shareholders some retrenchment, with the or so the consumers associations would have you believe. markets proving even more un-In practice it is hard to see the forgiving than usual when com-

Government intervening to Yet after a set-back, prices force prices down. Such a move can rally at the slightest excuse, would be artificial, with the result that price rises might be demonstrating just how much liquidity has been building up needed later - perhaps just and proving that not only can ahead of a general election. There are other issues - such as "pinstripe sheep" appear an achow to keep capital expenditure curate epithet for institutional fund managers, but that the up for the water companies and risks of being out of line with the to accelerate the restructuring of the electricity industry. rest of the crowd has not been I am inclined to add utilities

Recent pension fund manto the list of defensive sectors I believe private investors should agement statistics have shown many of the big houses underconside it. United Utilities gives performing their smaller rivals. you a taste of both - with a high This appears due in no small yield to boot. But there are othpart to the cautious approach ers worth considering. Even taken by a number of firms Scottish Hydro. which must be -1,000 points or more lower on worried about its £200m planned investment in the gas-fired If you are managing tens of power station at Peterhead, has its attractions. One thing you can billions of pounds of pension fund money it is quite difficult to say for privatisation - it has turn on a sixpence. The benefisharpened up management. ciaries have been the index And good management is often the best reason for choosing a fund managers, like Barclays,

these products have yet to be Brian Tora is chairman of the tested in a real bear market. Greig Middleton investment Meanwhile, we are faced with strategy committee

share.

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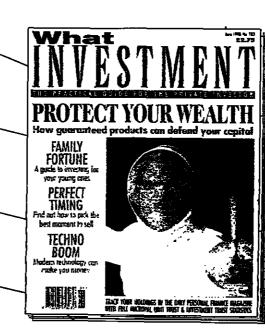
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MONEY & ETHICS

Much more than a gesture of intent

Concerned investors need advisers committed to the cause. The first problem is to find them. By Iain Morse

GETTING GOOD independent financial advice seems hard enough. But ethically minded investors face further problems finding independent not taken to include asking questions financial advisers with a real commitment to, and knowledge of, ethi-

It's not that there's any shortage of advisers (IFAs) who'll say they are there is no obligation for them to inprepared to advise on ethical in-vestment matters. According to Lee it in a standardised procedure. Most Coates, of the Ethical Investors Group: "Everyone wants to get on the and then know little about how these bandwagon, which is galling for those actually work," warns Mr Coates. of us who have been doing it longest,

out of a belief in what is right." Part of the problem lies with the rapid growth of the ethical sector, its funds attracting new money at a far like to see their pension funds run higher rate than non-ethical alternatives. The value of ethical funds under management has gone from £700m in 1994 to more than £2bn today, with almost 150,000 investors. This figure is expected to double by the year 2000.

In an industry where IFAs are usually rewarded by commission, this makes advising on ethical products a lucrative proposition.

Nowadays, most advisers recommending retail financial products typically PEPs and unit trusts, rather than company shares - are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. But while PIA rules oblige advisers to "know their client's circumstances" when giving advice, this is

The consequence is that while a very large majority of IFAs say they are prepared to give "ethical advice", will offer ethical funds only if asked,

vestment choice: 73 per cent would on ethical lines if possible; 51 per cent are worried that they do not know that only 16 per cent had heard of the ethical investment option. "Closing this gap between the as-

piration to make ethical investment and knowledge of what is available in the market place would be made far easier if IFAs were obliged to ask about ethical issues as part of their standard fact find," argues Jim Murdoch of Friends Provident.

The UK Social Investment Forum (UKSIF), with corporate members

about their ethical concerns.

Research carried out by Friends

Provident confirms that consumers want an ethical dimension to their inwhere their money is invested - but

including Friends Provident, NPI

Manchester United players modelling the team's latest strip. and the Co-operative Bank, is campaigning not just for a change of rules to ensure that ethical questions are included in all IFA "fact finds", but also for a means of defining good practice among those offering ethi-

UKSIF's executive director, Penny Shepherd, says: "We don't want to be prescriptive, or frighten advisers off, but think it's time to consider some kind of self-certification, which would demonstrate to those seeking ethical advice that they are dealing with an IFA qualified to give it."

Meanwhile, the Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris) compiles an annual directory of IFAs who offer advice on ethical investment. This lists just 67 firms out of some 3.500 UK firms with 22,000 individuals registered to give advice. Firms

are included if they put more than £100,000 into ethical funds, or if these amount to more than 40 per cent of their annual business, or if they bought the Eiris guide Money & Ethics in 1997.

But Keith Jenkyns, a director of Ethical Financial, doubts that these are sufficient grounds to assume a listed firm gives best ethical advice. He says: "The best ethical IFAs

have common features. First, a good ethical IFA will check up on fund managers running ethical funds, by asking for a list of shares held in the fund. This can often show up a gap between practice and principle."

Lee Coates agrees: "NPI has bought shares in NatWest Bank. who have helped fund Third World debt. and Manchester United Football Club - aren't they the club

which keeps issuing new strips and ripping off supporters? I will be writing to NPI and asking them to

Second, says Mr Jenkyns: "Ethical investors come in all shapes and sizes, so getting a clear idea about which investment areas they wish to avoid and which they wish to support is vital, particularly as this may leave only a very limited range of investments acceptable to the client."

Most genuinely "ethical" IFAs will ask you to complete a questionnaire which should list negative investment criteria - areas you want to avoid - and positive criteria - areas you want to support. Typical negative criteria include alcohol, tobacco and arms manufacture, while positive criteria include environmental policy, and employment practices.

good ethical IFA should be "able to this sector. Most of these funds hold high ratios of smaller company shares, and need time to give

He says: "Older investors, particularly those seeking to supplement pension income by investing a lump sum, should be made aware by advisers that sometimes there are good reasons for compromising on matters of principle. For instance, there are no 'ethical' with-profits funds, and ethical high-income funds tend to underperform against non-ethical alternatives."

performance".

Finally, Lee Coates argues: "Ethleast 40 to 50 per cent of their busi- page 4.

Next, says Geoffrey Griffiths, of ness into ethical funds, and should Barchester Green Investment, a also be able to tell you which non-ethical funds they refuse to clearly explain the risks inherent in recommend. Some of these are clearly worse than others; an adviser worth his sait should research this."

> Details of the IFAs mentioned in this article are given in the Eiris list of IFAs who offer advice on ethical inpestment. Ring 0171-735 1351 for a free copy. UK Social Investment Forum, 0171-377 5907. The Independent has produced

a free 28-page Guide to Ethical Finances' by Nic Cicutti, the paper's personal finance editor. The guide, sponsored by Friends Provident, has information on all aspects of money and ethics. Call 0800 214487 ical IFAs should be investing at for a copy or fill in the coupon on

Japan's crisis will be good news for some

SO THE news out of Japan is official at last. The miracle economy that only 10 years ago was the scourge of Western car makers and the darling of our investment community has officially gone into recession. At the same time the Japanese government has come out of denial about the real scale of the economic crisis facing the country

This is role reversal with a vengeance and some, no doubt, will take malign pleasure from it. It would be foolish, however, to ignore the fact that the crisis affects all of us in one way or another.

The worry now in Japan is not just that the economy will continue to contract for a crucial barometer of the few more months - which seems inevitable - but that the deepening crisis will eventuduring economic slump.

The threat that Japan is facing is one of debt deflation, in which the heavy hand of the debt that financed the reckless expansion of the 1980s slowly squeezes the life out of the economy in the 1990s. This so-called credit crunch is in essence the same syndrome that produced the 1930s slump in Europe and the United States.

The economic situation in Japan has been deteriorating since the early 1990s, when the flood of money into inflated assets such as shares and property reached its peak. There was a partial recovery in the mid-1990s, but that has since been brought to a juddering halt with the financial crisis in the rest of Asia. According to the economic analysts at HSBC Markets, the only word to describe the recent statistical evidence on the performance of the Japanese economy is "dire". It is hard to disagree.

Industrial production, reemployment has hit a post-short term. war record and the yen - a



 THE **JONATHAN** DAVIS COLUMN

health of the economy - has been falling like a stone. Meanwhile many of the counally plunge Japan into an en- try's leading banks are sitting on huge amounts of bad loans, a throwback to the day when they lent heavily to finance speculative share and property deals, as well as what by Western standards are huge amounts of industrial investment.

Japan regularly spends 50 per cent more on capital investment as a proportion of GDP than most other developed economies, which is fine when that money has a profitable home to go to, but disastrous if it merely ends up as idle capacity. Company profits (shown in the chart) are meanwhile set to fall this year by between 5 per cent and 20 per cent, depending on

whose estimate you believe. This week the weakness of the yen finally prompted the US government to intervene in the foreign exchange markets in an effort to reverse the relentless slide in the Japanese currency. The one continuing bright spot in the Japanese economy is the continued strength of its trade balance, so the fall of the yen can only make its exports

This is one reason why

the Americans (who are still running a large trade deficit) and the other Asian exporting countries are so worried by the yen's decline and would like to see it halted.

All in all, therefore, with the government still seemingly unable to push the economy back into a growth path, the economic situation in Japan could hardly be less promising. The odds therefore are on a long, grim summer, with plenty more bleak headlines and gloomy economic data. The government faces the classic problem identified by Keynes: that with consumers scared to spend, and interest rates already down to 0.5 per cent, any fresh efforts to stimulate the economy will be holdings. like "pushing on a string" -

forceful but ineffective. It is still too early to say whether the operation launched by the US and Japanese authorities to prop up the yen will stop the rot. (There appears to be an element of public relations about the US involvement, just a week ahead of President Clinton's visit to Japan.) Past experience suggests that currency intervention only really works for long if the economic fundamentals are already starting to pull in the same direction as the cur-

rency is being pushed. So does this alter my view that it is time to start thinking about the Japanese stock market as a potential home for a portion of your long term equity savings? Not a bit of it. As I have observed before, the time to find the best bargains in the markets is often when the news flow is at its

WOLST. The value-minded investor always bears in mind the timeless adage that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. The key point to remember is that the issue for a long-term investor is not so much when – but whether – have all fallen this year. Uneven more attractive in the recovery will eventually take not a serious issue.

market may yet have further to fall. The Japanese authorities have invested a huge amount of time and effort in trying to stop the Japanese stock market falling below the 14,000-15,000 range, so far with some success. From a purely investment point of view, it would probably be better if the market was to breach this psychological harrier and find its real bottom. However, there are genuine concerns that such a market fall would trigger a wave of destabilising bankruptcies among banks and insurance companies, whose solvency ratios depend on the value of their equity

This is certainly not a trivial matter, since the last thing any Western potential investor wants is a full-scale financial crisis in Japan, which could rapidly spread to the Western banking system. (The more news that seeps out of Asia, incidentally, the more remarkable it is that Western stock markets have so far virtually ignored the developing crisis.) My assessment, wever, is that the gloomy headlines coming out of Japan are poor omens for European and London markets, but still positive for Japanese equities on a long-

term view. It is true, as one of the City strategists I follow remarked this week, that the Japanese market is something of a casino and definitely not for conservative investors. But the odds that it will produce some significant gains in the next five to ten years are improving and it will be a big surprise if a prudent monthly investment in, say, a Far East or Japanese investment trust trading at a 15-20 per cent discount does not produce some handsome gains in due course. Provided, of course, that you can discipline yourself to ignore all the gloomy headlines in the

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Take the long view and invest

Despite concerns over Asian and Eastern European economies, it still makes sense to go in for global investments

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY markets have shown over the past year why unit trusts carry a warning that

prices can go down as well as un.
Turbulence in world stock markets began last summer in the Far East and reverberated around the globe. It affected all emerging markets, including those in Latin America and Europe, as well as threatening larger, more mature economies. And it is not over yet

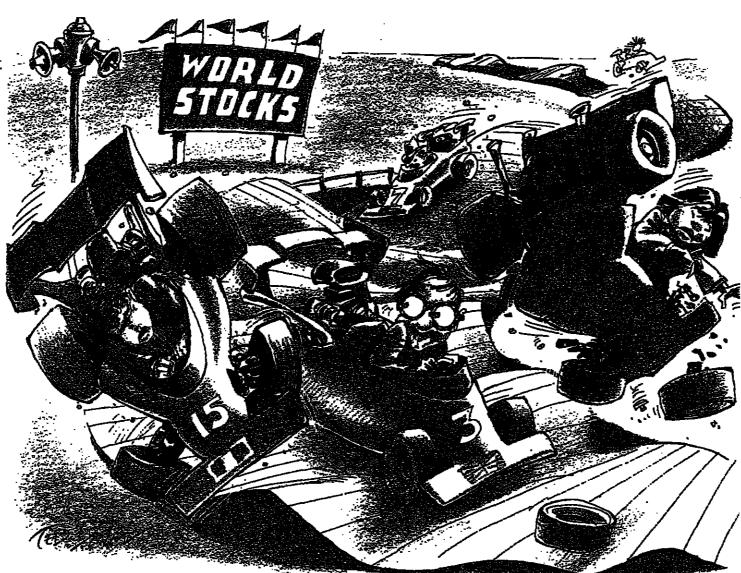
Events in Japan, where the gov-ernment has still to pull its economy into shape has led to a renewed bout of nervousness. A falling Japanese yen, fears of a devaluation of the Chinese currency, the yuan, and a possible trade war are surfacing.

Many investors may feel nervous about making investment overseas. A number of professional fund managers have thought for some time that the leading stock markets are overvalued, especially the USA, where share prices are still close to their all-time highs.

Yet the reasons for investing in an international portfolio remain as convincing as ever. The UK is the world's third largest stock market. But over recent years its performance has lagged behind that of the USA and other markets.

Even this year, which has seen the FTSE 100 index rise some 20 per cent, has only been a catching up process with the rise in share prices in America. Plus, the rise in the index important, it can be very difficult to has been dominated by a few financial, pharmaceutical and oil stocks.

While putting money into UK companies is normally the first equity investment for most savers, as time goes by they are usually advised to go international. This is because economies around the world are normally at different stages of the economic cycle, so ing internationally is by regular prospects can be better elsewhere. Mainland European markets, getting ready for the introduction of the euro, have been among the best performers this year.



is expensive to buy foreign shares and there is the added problem of taking currency risks. Even more get up to date information on foreign companies. Luckily, there are plenty of unit and investment trusts that specialise in international investments. They offer ready-made portfolios that can be bought into cheaply and which take all the hassle out of global investing.

One of the best means of investsaving. By putting in a set amount each month, you will iron out the peaks and troughs seen in markets. It means that when prices fall, you But investing overseas can be mainfund management groups now

costly and time-consuming. Many offer special regular saving plans, markets are difficult to invest in. It some starting from as low as £25 a month. As long as you invest for the long term, five or more years, you should do well. Over such a period, equity investment usually outstrips any other form of savings.

Going international can suit the cautious investor as well as those prepared to take high risks. General international funds, available from all the major groups, are the least risky. Most have up to half their investments in the USA, with the rest spread around the world. "In many respects, investing in a good, broad-based international fund can be less risky than investing in a UK unit trust," says Jeremy Smith, an independent financial adviser. "A will get more for your money. All the pure UK investment could be seen as putting all your eggs in one bas-

ket. By going international, you can iron out the rises and falls in individual national stock markets."

Next in order of risk are the geographical funds, such as Europe and the USA, followed by the emerging market funds, which have suffered over the past year. The high risk are single country funds or those investing in just one sector of the market such as technology.

A decade ago, Japan was seen as the market to be in. Yet, during the 1990s, funds specialising in Japan have been lagging in performance. Now, after last summer's stock market downturns in the Far East, they have been joined by other country-specific funds in the region such as those specialising in China, South Korea and Thailand.

Recently, a new trend has begun

Source: Micropal/LGIM oz zn offer to bid basis

based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 01.10.96 to 18.05.98.

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to emerge in global investments. Some fund managers have begun to look at international trends, such as increasing demand for healthcare and leisure activities, the increasing need for modern telecommunica-

tions, and so on. Sarasin and GT Global are two fund management groups that offer funds concentrating on these glob-al mega-trends and so offer their investors the prospect of making gains from these markets.

The stock market shocks of the past year in emerging markets will have made investors more cautious about putting their money overseas. But over the long term, there is still money to be made by investing globally.

TONY LYONS

LATIN'S NOT DEAD

Latin American markets, the re-gion still offers good prospects to investors prepared to take a long-term view.

Like many stock markets, Latin America felt the knock-on effect of last year's economic crisis in Asia. Investor confidence in most emerging markets slumped as a result.

"This was despite the Latin American economies being as robust as ever," points out David Park, the head of emerging markets at Scottish Widows.

"Investors have generally pulled out of emerging markets. In particular, there's been an absence of US mutual fund flows into Latin American markets. This is more down to concern over the potential risks of any overspill from the Asian crisis rather than to a serious deterioration in prospects for Latin

In the first five months of this vear Latin American markets

DESPITE THE recent slump in have fallen by anywhere up to 25 per cent. Investment funds investing generally in the region have been less hard hit because the largest markets, Brazil and Mexico, have been less severely hit. These are down 10 per cent

and 20 per cent respectively.
"Despite the recent falls, investment prospects in the region still look good," says Suzanne Carrington, who manages the Save & Prosper Latin American unit trust fund. "In the last few months it's been external factors which have been determining Latin American stock market behaviour. Now the markets are cheap and the outlook for them is good, although investors may not see a sustained improvement in the markets until later this year." Ms Carrington points out that many of these economies are growing at a healthy 5 per cent a year and companies are becoming more efficient,increasing profitability.

ABIGAIL MONTROSE

HAVE FAITH IN ASIA

INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC and political collapse has been front page news in recent months. But it's just the latest in a long line of Far Eastern countries from Thailand to the Philippines to struggle with financial meltdown. Now the problem country seems to be Japan.

Asia's problems highlight the risks in investing in emerging markets. These offer the potential for exciting returns but the investors also risk wipe-out.

Nevertheless, if you're prepared to invest for the long term, putting a small amount of your portfolio through a unit or investment trust into developing markets makes sense. Excluding Latin America, there are three areas to consider.

The first is the Far East. The pessimists say the area is full of economic basket cases. Others look on the collapse as presenting opportunities to get into markets cheaply.

Many fund managers seem to be taking the latter view. A recent survey by analyst Burson-Marsteller found that a majority of fund managers are increasingly positive about the prospects for the region. "The general consensus is that the worst is over in South East Asia, with the exception of Indonesia," says Simon Eaton of Burson-Marsteller - but that was just before fears grew about a collapse of the Japanese yen and the country announced that it was of-

ficially in recession. The challenge for economies in Asia is to continue the economic recovery. Investors who have money in the region should stay put, but new investors would be brave to invest significant sums. Hong Kong and China seem best placed.

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The writer is features editor of "Investors Chronicle".

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When they grow up, so will their cars

AS A generation of children is brought up on computer games demanding solit-second reflexes from super-sharp controls, will tomorrow's cars finally offer steering (and other controls) that serve up precision rather than the sloppiness of a wooden spoon in a bowl of porridge?

My eight-year old son, for instance, is expert at coolly guiding "virtual reality" racing cars around circuits, avoiding crash barriers, trees, earth banks and buildings. On the other hand I. a veteran of 24 years' driving, seem incapable of negotiating a single lap without spinning, crashing, rolling or being rebuked for going the wrong way. I am something of a Luddite,

I admit. Just as relevant is my continuing inability to master computer games. I was also brought up on - and continue to drive - cars with about as much steering sensitivity as an oceangoing freighter. Huge inputs go into car steering wheels - arms swaying, wrists flicking, shoulders heaving - all to make small changes to the direction of the car's front wheels. The move towards power steering has removed the ultimate heft, but it's done little for steering precision and feedback

We put up with it only because most of us know no better. All modern saloon cars have appallingly sloppy steering. Drive a Lotus Elise – which does without power assistance, a huge wheel, and the hopelessly multi-twirl steering with which 99 per cent of all cars are encumbered - and you'll experience road feel you've never felt before. Helicopters, which I have experienced a couple of times, are much more sensitive again, partly because they use joysticks. (Mercedes has suggested that, long term, joysticks linked to "drive-bywire" aeroplane-like controls may be a better solution, on ' cars, than conventional steering wheels.) Computer game cars, of course, are also precise. Compare the nimbleness of a normal saloon car with that of a computer game car, and it's like comparing a 747 to a fly. It must be one reason why nimbleminded kids invariably beat their

dads in racing games. The new Sony Playstation more hope. I'd been hopelessly and regularly thrashed by eightyear old Henry on his Sega Rally. once the video game benchmark, but Gran Turismo looked better suited to us real drivers. After all, Sony claims the cars handle like real cars - there are even key differences from model to model. Sony Gran Turismo costs just as in real racing.



GAVIN GREEN

Compare a saloon car with the nimbleness of a computer game car; it's like comparing a 747 to a fly

Maybe, but Henry still thrashes me as comprehensively as he does on Sega Rally. Yet that doesn't reduce the enjoyment (somehow being beaten by your son is not quite so bad as being beaten by other people). I am now a computer game junkie, practising my tail slides, opposite lock corrections and racing lines, all in the discomfort of my own box bedroom. Besides, if you're not happy with your car on Gran Turismo, you can swap it for one of 130 other models.

The cars handle and sound differently, from model to model. You can even tune them to give them different handling, better brakes and so on, specifying from a huge menu of spares. Just as impressive are the graphics. The cars are all in 3D with totally convincing paintwork. At the end of each race, you get the full action replay, but from the spectator's angle rather than from the driver's. So you can see just how hopeless you are. All that's missing, in the action replays, is Murray Walker's babble.

As must be palpably clear by now, I am no computer game expert, but Henry says the Gran Turismo is much better than Sega Rally and cousin Owen (who's 15 and a computer guru) rates it above the Top Gear Rally game on his new Nintendo 64. "The cars feel so realistic." trumpet Henry and Owen in unison. never mind that neither can to take part in real-life motor racing. Sony's Gran Turismo game

is as close as you're likely to get. Besides, as well as educating our kids in driving techniques, it may also educate the car makers in serving up better cars.

For lovers of luggers

A CAR has three main functions. Function A is to transport people and possessions from one place to another. Function B is to instil pleasurable feelings into its driver, feelings that come from the way the car responds to commands and interacts with his or her skills. Function C is to make a statement about its owner's take on life.

The priorities you place on these functions can influence what car you buy. But sometimes a car chosen for Function A, say, may have surprising claims on Function B. And Function C can lead to all sorts of trouble.

So it is with Citroën's new Xsara Estate. In Function A terms its purpose is clear. Forget the lifestyle estate idea, Audi A4 Avants, BMW Tourings, Volvo V-whatevers; this is a smaller, cheaper car in which load-lugging is central to its being. But it's a Xsara, and Xsaras, despite a visual personality bordering on the anodyne, are entertaining to drive, with perky engines and responsive handling. So that's Function B, coming up hard now into contention.

And C? As I said, it's a Xsara, from today's super-sensible Citroen company, all sales-focused and customer-responsive. Buy a Xsara Estate, and clearly you are Mr/Ms Sensible. So why was it, then, that at the UK press presentation of this useful but heartrate-neutral car, the Citroen people suddenly linked the new Xsara Estate to the great tradition of the DS Safari and - sacré bleu! - the Traction Avant Commerciale? This latter, by the way, was an opening-rear relative of the car

made famous by Inspector Maigret. The past has been taboo for a while at Citroen, but a thaw is starting. Or maybe there's a more pragmatic explanation. The Xsara range has not captured the buying public's



John Simister tests the efficiency, handling, style and ride of Citroën's new Xsara Estate

imagination (and its money) as its line that reaches a proper conclusion makers hoped it would, mainly because of a shortage of Function C credibility. Link the Xsara Estate with cars perceived as interesting and glamorous, goes the thinking, and maybe the new car will soak up some Function C kudos where all else has so far failed (Claudia Schiffer's dishabille in the Xsara Coupé ad notwithstanding).

It helps that the Estate is aesthetically the happiest Xsara; it's more resolved around the rear end, thanks to a gracefully rising waistinstead of being chopped prematurely. And, yes, it's a good car. It swallows more stuff than immediate rivals, slim roof pillars make it much lighter and airier than other Xsaras, and the estate-car side of things is intelligently conceived.

There's other deverness, too. Eschewing the trend towards bodycolour-painted bumpers that are expensive to refurbish post-bump. Citroen fits the Xsara Estate with black plastic bash-surfaces in sections. Scrape a corner, and the corner is all you replace. And the top Exclusive version has an automatic windscreen wiper setting that works out when to switch the wipers on or off. Believe it or not, it works.

You get a choice of 1.4, 1.6 and 1.8litre petrol engines, the middle one of which strikes a particularly good compromise between pace, price and smoothness, and two 1.9-litre diesels, with or without turbo. The interior is solidly constructed, the seats are comfortable, life is sweet. Apart from one surprising flaw. Larger Citroens are noted for the

SPECIFICATIONS

Price: £13,610 (1.6 LX) Engine: 1,587 cc, four cylinders, 90bhp at 5,600rpm. Transmission: five-speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: 112mph, 0-60 in 11.6sec, 31-36mpg.

RIVALS

Daewoo Nubira 1.6 SE Estate: £12,995. Well-made, comfortable but characterless load-lugger from Korea. Worth a look.

Ford Escort 1.6 LX Estate: £13,720. Capable but dated, archetypal TV rental company transport. To be replaced in the

Peugeot 306 1.6 LX Estates £14,195. The march of the 1,6 LXs continues. Less space, more panache than Xsara... Vauxhall Astra 1.6 LS Estate: £13,545. New Astra is delightful to drive, but cabin is deeply duil.

smoothness of their ride, because their hydropneumatic suspension compensates for the weight. But the Xsara, like the ZX Estate before it, has simple steel springs, rather stiff, to cope with heavy weights, and therefore unyielding. With just two people on board, the Xsara Estate proved the most agitated Citroen. apart from sporty derivatives, that I have ever experienced. By my judgement, it matters. But by the stark logic of Function A. unless your life revolves around eggs or fine cut crystal, it almost certainly does not

While the big fish of the country's car industry have fallen into foreign hands, the minnows are growing from strength to strength, writes James Ruppert

AS ANOTHER British car manufacturer falls into foreign hands, following the takeover of Rolls-Royce by Volkswagen, the largest Britowned manufacturer of motor vehicles is now a company you have probably never heard of.

"I believe we have that distinction," says Terry Fryer of LTL "But I can assure you that we won't let it go to our heads.

We may not know LTI, but all of us will have seen, or ridden in, one of its vehicles. London Taxis International built more than 3,000 taxis this year, making it easily the biggest pools. The list of British car makers swallowed up by the foreign com-

petition is long and depressing. AC, the oldest-surviving British company, established in 1908, was bought last year by South African entrepreneur Alan Lubinsky. Ford bought Aston Martin in 1987 and has also owned Jaguar since 1989. Lotus was picked up by Proton Cars of Malaysia in 1996. Land Rover and

Roll over Rolls-Royce

Rover were bought by BMW in 1994. and General Motors bought Vauxhall way back in 1925.

Whatever happened to the British motor industry? It is still here, but ifferent – and much smaller. Ironically, as a motor manufac-

turer Britain has never been healthier. Although car production peaked at 1.92 million in 1972, that was also the time when poor management, ity vehicle imports all conspired to put the industry into freefall. Recovery started only when for-

eign ownership was encouraged by Margaret Thatcher's market reforms. Nissan's factories in Sunderland and Toyota's Derbyshire plant have become among the most productive in Europe. In 1957 we built 861,000 cars; 30 years later that figure had increased to 1.7 million.

a huge influence, with well-placed British engineers and designers throughout the industry. Pre-eminent among them is the Scots-born Alex Trotman, who runs Ford. And then there is motor racing. Formula One and the American IndyCar equivalent are dominated by British

companies and cars.

Meanwhile, some brave souls ingly British cars. Strongest of the survivors and in production terms the biggest car maker in the UK is TVR, which certainly doesn't build taxis. "A British car should be a frontengined, rear-wheel-drive sports car, painted green," says Ben Samuelson of TVR.

"Our export markets are in Surrey and Hampshire," he jokes. "The turning point was 1985, when we de-

In global terms, Britain still has cided against expert advice to concentrate on what British buyers wanted." The firm aims to build up to 2.000 TVRs this year from their unfashionable Blackpool location.

Another company that famously ignored the expert advice is Morgan. Established in 1909, it makes Thirties-shaped, Nineties-powered, characterful, timber chassis, aluminiumbodied sports cars. On the BBC TV ICI chairman Sir John Harvey-Jones urged the company to slash waiting lists and boost production.

As the early Nineties recession loomed, such a strategy would have been precisely the wrong thing to do. The hand-built Morgan is still in family hands and Peter Morgan, son of the founder, insists "This is the only British car company to have made a profit every year since 1945".

Closest in spirit to Rolls-Royce and Bentley is former aircraft builder Bristol, which now makes bespoke, six-figure-sum luxury cars.

Caterham, which sells about 750 sports cars a year, is run by the father-and-son team of Simon and Graham Nearn. It is the same at Marcos Cars with Jero and Chris Marsh, who produce 100 cars a year. Chris Smith and his family run Westfield, selling 400 cars a year. while Jonathan Heynes at Reliant Motors produces up to 700 threewheelers each year.

Although survival as an indethe idea of building a British car is still appealing. Last week Creative, a Redditch-based design and manufacturing group, announced plans to relaunch the famous Jensen marque. On the evidence, all they need to succeed is a single-minded owner, no meddling shareholders and a unique, ideally sporting, car. in British motor manufacturing these days, it pays to be small.

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MY WORST CAR CHARLOTTE BICKNALL'S RENAULT 5

I HAVE only ever owned one car and that was seven years ago. Even so, it turned out to be the worst possible car that I could have bought. despite costing only £300. It was a rusty old Renault 5 which didn't know the meaning of reliability, a pretty fun-damental flaw in a car which was meant to get me to drama school and auditions

every day. It all started so well. I fell it love with the Frenchness of it all. For a start, the radio could only pick up a French radio station. I didn't mind one bit because I would drive around London loving every minute of it half-convin-

ced I was appearing in an arty French film with subtitles. However, it

was not too long before the love affair became a nightmare and the Renault was rapidly christened the baked bean tin.

Every morning, without fail and especially when it was cold, the Renault would refuse to start. In fact, I got into quite a pleasant routine first thing in the morning, have some breakfast and, by the time I'd finished, their mechanic would be tinkering under the bonnet. I soon got to know all the local patrols by their first names and they



back in again and it would start. Goodness knows what the other drivers thought when they saw me running around - it must have been quite a bizarre and frightening sight.

Then I went away one Christmas and left the Renault parked outside my flat in Camberwell. When I came back after a few weeks someone had taken exception to the little car. The doors had



Charlotte." That cozy arrangement had to end, of course, and the AA wrote and cancelled my membership because I had used them more than 60 times in less than a

The Renault kept on miswhereby I would ring the AA behaving though, especially on the move. Often it would just break down without warning, but I knew how to cure it. I kept a sledgehammer under the seat, so I'd jump out, grab the hammer, open the bonnet, whack the would say: "Oh no! Not you starter motor, then jump

been ripped off, the windscreen smashed and a bin liner full of rubbish dumped inside. I had to pay someone to tow it away. Now I go everywhere by tatty push bike. Deep down though, I'd quite like a Volkswagen

Charlotte Bicknell has just landed a lead role in Ben Elton's "Popcorn" and also played Delilah in "This Life", which is showing every Tuesday at 9.40pm on UK Gold. She was talking to James Ruppert,

When it comes to moving long distances, relocation agents can cut your costs. By Mary Wilson

PAYING A search or a relocation agent to find you a new home might seem an expense you can do without, but in many cases it actually pays to pay someone else to do the

A relocation company's expertise goes far further than just finding a home. It can negotiate a favourable price, being more detached than a purchaser who is likely to be ruled by his beart rather than his head. It can oversee the purchase of the property and, if you have a family of school age, it will source and report on local schools.

A relocation agent can work out where it is best to live logistically if you have to commute, check out where the best golf course or tennis club is, help with removals and find out anything else you might need to know about a new area.

If you live the other end of the country, or are coming back to England from abroad, finding out this sort of information is time-consuming and expensive. The relocation agent can be there to hold your hand while you become acclimatised to the new area, too.

"Relocation agents are considered by many to be a luxury, but retaining an agent to work on the purchaser's behalf is likely to save money, even after the payment of fees," says Paul Greenwood, of Stacks Relocation. "We aim to save our clients' money on two levels. First by cutting down their expenses during the search and, second, by being in a strong position to negotiate the best possible price to secure the property once it has been

If long distances are involved when looking for a property in an area well away from your current home, the costs can add up. Many properties put forward by estate agents are not what is required journeys.

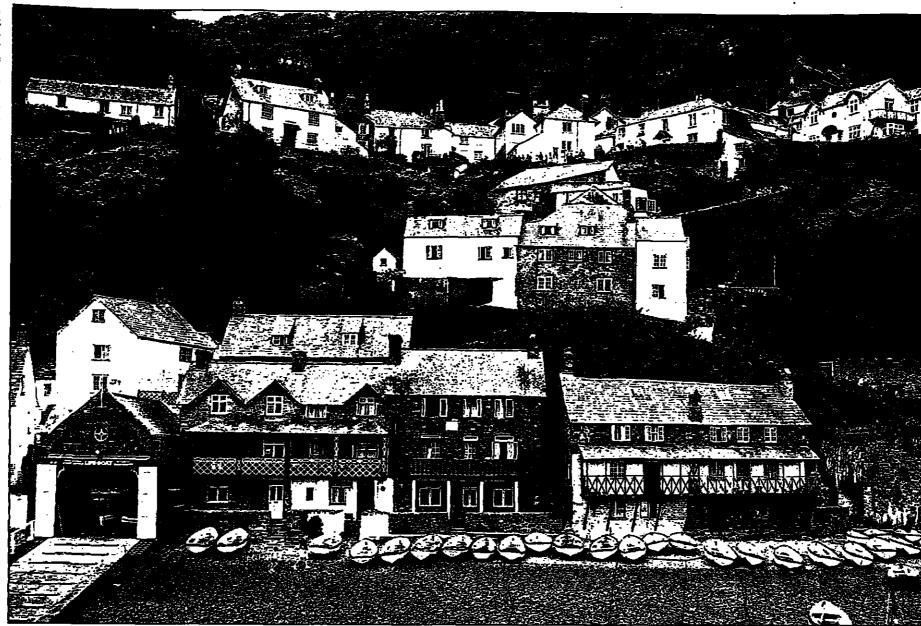
Mr and Mrs James White, who had lived in Yorkshire for 20 years and spent family holidays in Devon. decided to look for a house there to which they could retire. For the first three months the Whites went property hunting under their own steam, driving down to Devon on six different occasions, clocking up some 4,500 miles and hotel expenses of around £600.

On their last visit, they were about to put in an offer of the full asking price for a house when someone suggested they should contact The County Homesearch Company for a second opinion.

"We were able to take quite a detached view of the property," says Fiona McLeilan, who runs the Devon office, "They were anxious to get the matter wrapped up and were prepared to offer the asking price of £165,000.

"By sitting down and looking at detailed comparables which were available to us, we took over the ne- Hong Kong, for example, £8,000gotiations and saved them £7,500 on £10,000 of these related costs, as well

Should you be buying from overseas, then the money spent on lookin for property can be even more horrendous. "Buying a property can be a daunting prospect at the best



and can involve endless wasted. Finding a home in Devon is much easier with the benefit of local knowledge.

Save yourself: how to search without strain

Charterhouse International, which is based in Bath. "But when considering the matter from the other side of the world, the related costs such as flights and hotel accommodation, not to mention the time element, make it not only disconcerting but very expensive."

Charterhouse reckons a relocation agent can save clients based in as a considerable amount of time. When it acquired a country house for such a client with a budget of up to faxed to Charterhouse and the sale concluded in three months. of times," says Philip Selway at The purchaser viewed the proper- property at the right price," says

HOUSE-HUNTING COSTS MOUNT UP

London-based family looking Four conversations a week for for a second home costing about £200.000, in Devon. Six visits by car to the area

around Exeter (round trip estimated at 340 miles) based on AA's to be an unsuitable property figure of 33p per mile £673 Three overnight stays for two people at a modest hotel or B&B

£500,000, the requirements were ty once, while on a business trip. "Also, purchasers from abroad are less confident that they can buy a

a duration of five minutes with estate agents in Exeter area £104 One survey on what turns out

£250

Total: £1,577 Source: Stacks Relocation

James Wilson of Lane Fox Acquisitions. "I recently bought a house, which

someone living overseas at significantly less than the quoted guide price. If there is competition for a house, then someone like myself can tip the balance because the agent knows I have a serious buyer and can act quickly."

agents charge between 1.25 per matters to schooling. cent to 1.5 per cent of the purchase price: in London this is more likely minimum charge of between £1,000 4785 and £2,000. Most companies charge an up-front fee of £200-£500, which may or may not be deducted from their main fee. And the majority of these agents will require you to be was not on the open market, for a cash buyer.

To find a reputable relocation agent, you can contact the Association of Relocation Agents. This body also publishes a Foreigners' Guide to the United Kingdom (price £5), which explains all that someone coming into Britain will need to know On average, relocation or search about living in the country, from tax

Stacks Relocation: 01666 860523 to be 2 per cent and often there is a Lane Fox Acquisitions: 0171-499 County Homesearch Companu:

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Following the sun for the sunset years

More than 4,000 UK citizens will seek a dream retirement home in Spain this year. By Fiona Brandhorst

EVERY YEAR thousands of sunstarved Brits pack their golf clubs and a few tea chests and head for retirement on the Costa del Sol. Since the Sixties it has been a popular holiday destination, but now it is also home to some 80,000 sunloving expats.

Most of the 4,000 expected new settlers this year will be British. It is easy to see why. Apart from the climate, the strong pound means that property prices for British buyers have fallen considerably.

Five years ago, David and Elizabeth Gilbert started to plan their early retirement by buying a 10th-floor apartment overlooking the marina resort of Benalmadena, just 15 minutes drive from Malaga airport. They chose Spain for the weather and easy access to their family back in England.

"We wanted a relatively lower cost of living without losing any of the quality when we retired," says Elizabeth. They got to know the area and made some good English and Spanish friends, however, it slowly became apparent that a two-bedroom apartment would not be hig enough for a permanent home. "We have seven children between us and a growing number of grandchildren and we wanted to have enough room to accommodate each family comfortably when they came to

The Gilberts downsized from a five-bedroom house to a two-bedroom flat in England to make the capital available to purchase a bigger property in Spain. "It also gave

us a low-maintenance base for frequents visits back to the UK," adds David.

Last year, with their retirement date looming, they viewed a selection of large villas but were deterred by the cost and time involved in maintaining a private pool and sizeable garden. "The villas were also quite isolated and we felt it was important to integrate with the Spanish people as well as the expats."

They made a point of looking for a property set within the largely Spanish community of Arroyo de la Miel, a short drive from their original apartment. They fell in love with a new development of 40 villas clustered around a central park complete with a tennis court, swimming-pool and lake for the exclusive use of residents. A reasonable service charge pays for its mainte-nance. But with Spanish builders' reputation as unpredictable as the English weather, were they not taking a risk as they reserved their

building plot? "The development was being built by the largest building company in the Costa del Sol, so we were confident of the guarantees for the building workmanship," says Elizabeth. It was also reassuring that two of the company's directors were having villas built there, too.

The Gilberts moved in last October and they are delighted with the 50 per cent paid when the deeds were results, although the final completion has taken longer than they anticipated. They guess that, like Britain, 90 per cent of a new house £120,000 for the villa, £30,000 less than is completed on time and to the spec-



ification but the other 10 per cent seems to take for ever.

We've become more accommodating," says Elizabeth. "We've realised manana doesn't necessarily mean tomorrow." The Gilberts have also been careful about "extras" as they provide the builder with an opportunity to make more profit. They ensured that everything was priced separately and agreed before the work started, "We regularly communicated and confirmed work as it was progressing. Personal site visits were essential."

Payments were staged, the final signed and keys handed over "The exchange rate gains over the period meant we paid the equivalent of the original price," says David.

David and Elizabeth have relied heavily on their bilingual Spanish solicitor, recommended through a friend when they bought their apartment. "He's advised us all the way," says David, "not only in a legal capacity. He's ironed out a few interpretation problems. But we were lucky that the developer had an employee who spoke good English."

Unlike English law, debt can attach to a property so unpaid mortgages, local taxes and community charges are inherited by the buyer. Planning permission for new properties must be obtained by the developer from the Spanish authorities.

Bill Blevins is the co-author of the Blackstone Franks Guide to Living in Spain. He advises purchasers: "Use the services of a reputable

Spanish lawyer to complete any property transactions. Never sign anything unless you have obtained legal advice." The guide also details Spain's inheritance laws, taxes, pensions and wills, important considerations for both the expats and their families back home. To reduce inheritance tax, most people leave their surviving partner a "usufruct" in the family house - a life interest -rather than half the property, and

children. While the Gilberts have risen to the challenge of supervising the purchase and building of their villa, a more reassuring proposition for some may be the agency for overseas property recently launched by

ownership then passes to their

Thomas Cook. One hundred of its travel shops

potential purchasers can view details of new properties abroad built by well-known British developers such as Banner Homes, Mowlem and Prowting. Financial, legal and mort-gage advice will be available as well as overseas building and contents insurance, although buyers will be free to shop around for all these services.

now feature a "travel lounge" where

Andrew Chapman, general manager for Thomas Cook Resort Properties, says: "The service will alleviate any uncertainty and concerns purchasers may have." Prices start from £49,000 for a studio apartment in Spain. Subsidised weekend 'fly-buys" can be arranged to take potential purchasers to view properties.

In another venture, Taylor Woodrow is developing a site close to Marbella, overlooking a golf course designed by Seve Ballesteros. Around 100 high-specification detached villas, apartments and townhouses are being built. Villas start from £290,000, two-bedroom apartments from £80,000. Select villa plots start from £55,000, where buyers can commission their own architect or choose Taylor Woodrow to design and build a property to their own plans. English-speaking Spanish lawyers are also employed by the developer to handle property sales.

As the Gilberts settle in to their marble surroundings do they have any regrets? "None," they chorus. We obviously miss our family a great deal, but we're always e-mailing each other." Some old habits die hard. Sunday mornings in the Gilbert household are still for browsing through the weekend papers only now it's on the Internet.

Blackstone Franks Guide to Living in Spain', £6.99, 0171-336 1000; Thomas Cook Resort Properties 0870 2425525; Taylor Woodrow 0181-575 4198.

THE **TOOLS**

HOW MUCH time will you spend before deciding to buy a property, and how

will you use that time? "People usually spend two hours, but often as little as 45 minutes, to decide," says Paul Greenwood, managing director of Stacks Relocation. "They can spend more time looking at a second-hand car than at a second-hand bouse."

Like most househunters, Philippa had been casual, especially in her initial inspections. She did not even notice the seriously sagging bedroom ceiling on her first viewing, and when she spotted it the second time round, she needed a third visit, stepladder in hand, to access the loft.

Although she examined the roof space thoroughly, a quick glimpse as soon as the trap door was opened confirmed her worst suspicions. In a windowless space that should have



been totally dark, light streamed in through sev-

eral gaps in the roof. If she had seen the light during her first visit, she might have been warned off the property from the start. In the event, by the time she discovered the serious water damage in the roof, she had already spent several hundred non-refundable pounds on legal and other fees. She promised herself to have a more aggressive attitude, and the right tools, for future viewings.

Few people need reminding to bring paper and pen. After viewing only three or four properties it can be hard to recall which was which, and the problem intensifies with each additional property. Detailed notes are essential. A camera might be a tool too far for most househunters, but it is an excellent aide-mémoire. A torch and binoculars

are essential. The torch enables you to penetrate the darkness of cupboards, cellars and other concealed areas where woodworm and dry rot lurk. The human nose is a valuable tool for sniffing out the heavy mushroomy odour of the dry-rot fungus. Binoculars provide close-up views of roof tiles, chimneys, down-pipes and other features on the property's exterior.

To place the property in relation to the sun, a glance skywards may suffice, but a compass will provide precise readings. and maps are also helpful. Richard's house-hunt-

ing expeditions took him to a distant part of town. "I didn't mind it at first, but after a few trips my petrol costs were adding up, and it really bothered me if I made a trip to a house that bad no hope when I should have known it in advance. One bouse backed on to railroad tracks, and that's when I realised I should bave been using my A-Z more intelligently."

Town plans and, for suburban and rural areas, ordinance maps reveal the locations of schools, busy roads, railroad lines, sewage treatment plants and other landmarks.

Use tape measures to verify that a sofa, piano, wardrobe or bed will fit into the nook or cranny of the new property. Never feel too embar-

rassed to look in the attic or cellar or cupboards again. Don't feel uncomfortable turning on the taps to test the water pressure or flushing the lavatory, or opening the windows. And remember, providing you are polite, there is no need to rush take the time you need. ROBERT LIEBMAN London Property

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INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENCY.... at its best

IT is almost a year ago that the froth started to come off house prices in the South-East. The chances of buyers paying the extraordinary sums of the early spring had already diminished by

July. But now this slowdown is being more widely felt and, in its latest report, Black Horse Agencies says homes are taking on average 13 weeks to sell, some two weeks slower than in February. Interestingly, though, it also finds that half of the 12 fastest selling areas are in the eastern region, which lends weight to the theory of the "ripple effect" - what is felt in London today will

get to other parts tomorrow. What Black Horse is in fact discovering is not an alarming fall in prices but a failure on the part of vendors to keep up with changes in the market. Many have in their minds percentage increases in double figures, and stories of shortages and stampedes of frustrated buyers and so are putting their homes on the market for unrealistic

David Woodcock, managing director for Black Horse Agencies, describes it as a "tug of war between vendors expecting higher prices and buyers reluctant to meet those demands". Buyers tend to have a far better idea of the market than sellers, which explains some of the price reductions in parts of London recently.

CAMBRIDGE students this week beat some of the country's leading architects in a lapping at its borders?

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Same of the same o

171. 171.



PENNY JACKSON What is felt in

London today will affect others

competition to design an innovative house for the next century. The students, from The Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies, came up with a "solar collector", a system for pre-heating air for ven-tilation, and a "warm wall" for storing and emitting energy. Their winning scheme included a communal wetland habitat, designed in part to filter water from the development's handbasins and showers. The Living Sites competition was run by Wates Built Homes.

USUALLY WITH a sigh, estate estate agents say that, yes, they know Brixton has great houses, competitive prices and the Tube but some families are still nervous about moving there. Still, Charles Church is building luxury flats on the old Brixton School of Building in Stockwell. Can it be long before this pocket of London is washed by the tide of interest that is now

Where there is darkness

NO MORE stambling over sofas to reach the corner lamp or sitting under searchlight brightness for those who have been inducted into the world of good lighting. At the press of a button they can switch their living-rooms from pre-dinner brightness to afterdinner intimacy and this, they say, is a revolution in living.

Lighting experts are far more common in the commercial world than in the domestic market, but this could be about to

David Robinson, who has just done up his Kensington house which has been in the family for years, says it is one of the best investments he has made. "I was particularly anxious that we did nothing to spoil the house, only enhance it. Now people say how beautiful it is. Rooms that felt closed in have been opened up with lights in every corner and they feel far larger. We have done away with central hanging lights and put in wall lights and halogen lights, but nothing visually intrusive."

A lightwell has a carefully placed lamp that comes on automatically as daylight fades. "It had a clue if I had bried to do it gives the impression of the day on my own." being extended and it seems to give you extra energy in the winter." The effect of blending outside and inside light is magnified by the use of lanterns on the wall of the house above a bay with a glass floor.

"It creates a wonderful glow," says Mr Robinson, "Altogether, with devices like the programmed lighting in the sittingroom and the new arrangement in the kitchen, it has revolutionised our lives. I wouldn't have



'The essence of a home is getting the lighting right.'

... let there be light. Switch on: you can work a small revolution

Since many people start thinking about lighting only once their rooms are finished, their options are often limited to dimmers and lamps. Electrical work is messy and expensive and the time to think about chasing wires into walls is not after the expensive wallpaper has been put up. A lighting overhaul is not chean. Specialists usually charge by the hour, but the fittings and work will push costs into several thou-

Anthony Lassman, recently turned developer, says that nation of floor-length windows, a thoughtless lighting can often blight a place while a wellconceived system can produce stunning results. In his current project, a mews house - always notoriously dark - in Bourdon Street, Mayfair, London, he has placed windows and lamps in such a way as to have constant light. As daylight disappears, so outside lights come on, extending

the view from the rooms. The bathroom, once virtually a shed, and the main bedroom, get extra light through a combiglazed roof and both unlighters and downlighters set in an outside decked area.

"The essence of a home is getting the lighting right, and most of the time we get it wrong," says Mr Lassman. "For it to work, you have to be clear about where the furniture is going. Nor is it any good treating a warehouse conversion and a lovely old house in the same way."

Georgina Fordham, who like David Robinson had her house scared of radical lighting

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◆ Bathroom - wall lights

◆ Bedroom – soft-colour candle bulbs ◆ Children's room – energysaving bulbs that are not

hot to the touch

relit by Sally Storey of John Cullen Lighting, says that think-ing about the lighting makes you focus on where you want to sit and which paintings you might want to illuminate. "If I had only a certain amount of money in the kitty I would rather spend it on lights than on expensive curtains or wallpaper Even simple things like having dimmers in every room, especially the children's, make a huge difference. And it's amazing how the right lighting can make a dinner party go really well."

Ms Storey is not surprised by people's reaction to intelligent lighting. "So often we get it wrong. There is a lot of cheap lighting around which gives a bad effect. A low-voltage downlighter with recessed lamps and directed towards the wall looks wonderful. The secret is to think in layers of light."

She finds that many people who want to do interior decorating themselves get stuck on the lighting. "If you convert a loft, it is difficult to know the different effects you can get from building lights into the eaves, or picking out interesting shapes with con-

cealed lights." The opportunity for designers to experiment with lighting rarely comes with a private commission - apparently the British are 0171-349 8020.

schemes. But in the revamped Earl's Terrace, in Kensington, Helen Green of the designers Lifestyles Interiors has used mirrors in the void beneath a roof light to create a magical effect at night. "The trick was to cut a hole in one of the mirrors for an uplighter," she says.

"It is crucial to get the lighting planned early on, because you might well want different circuits in a room, so all your lamps come on separately from the main lights at the touch of a switch. One of the systems we have used which throws a clearcut image of light on to paintings is concealed in the ceiling."

Picking up professional tips may not run to arranging for your lighting to dim as the film starts, as it does in Earl's Terrace, but sellers could do worse than use a simple device one developer tried out. He subtly floodlit a show house and within weeks found the number of inquiries had risen enormously.

Bourdon Street meus house is for sale for £975,000 for a 105-year lease through Foatons and FPD Savills. John Cullen Lighting: 0171-371 5400. Hourly consultacosts per hour. Lifestyles Interiors:

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Lavatory humour

Discreet or not so discreet, personalised loo seats are a great way to show off. And there are thrones to suit the wackiest of tastes. By Rosalind Russell

lvis Presley died while sitting on his specially commissioned Nautilus loo, made room of his Graceland mansion by the English sanitaryware firm Chatsworth.

Ornately designed with a lion's head, but with motifs originating from the mariners of Ancient Greece, a single Nautilus loo requires 27 individual moulds to produce it. It comes in cream and dramatic highgloss black, but can be made to order is almost any colour.

On The Peak, Hong Kong's most prestigious address, one of the lead-ing families, the Kaibong Chans, both Cambridge educated lawyers - famous for their conspicuous wealth and their his 'n' her's Rolls-Royces (one pink, the other gold) ~ have a scarlet loo seat embedded

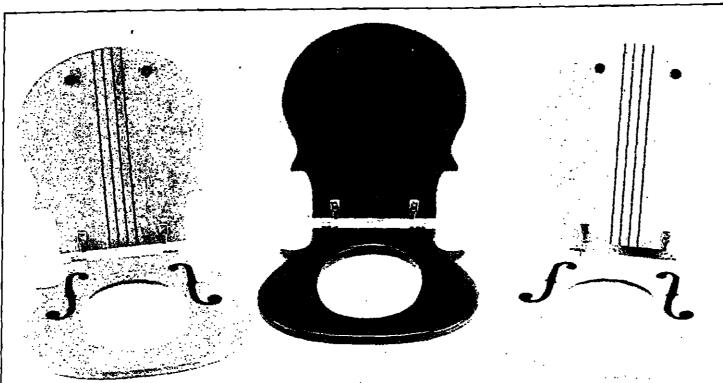
with real gold coins. A customised loo is a private joke. It provides an opportunity to be considered flamboyant and witty in your interior design, without disturbing the equilibrium of the re-

mainder of your living space. It's toilet humour for polite society. Nobody claims it is tasteful, but a loo seat embedded with tin tacks or barbed wire does raise a smile (both available from branches of John Lewis, price £85) in even the most po-faced visitor.

Staffordshire-based Screwy Loos is just about to celebrate its first birthday as an unusual loo-seat supplier. When it launched last July the company sent a mail-out to 1,000 bathrooms shops. Its humour struck a chord: on the first day it did £50,000 worth of business.

Peter Brophy began the company with a friend to escape the stress of the computer industry. Now there are more than 30 people employed in Lochgilphead in Scotland producing the limited-edition loo seats, while he has a great deal of fun thinking up suitably silly designs (Royal Flush, with playing cards, and Break The Sound Barrier, with miniature

No two seats are identical as they are hand-cast. A labour content of six hours each helps explain the cost. In The Mood is a seat and cover come, the company is expanding to



The function may have remained the same, but the form has certainly been revolutionised

embedded with miniature orchestral instruments, quavers, semi-quavers and clefs; there are fishing seats and golfing seats and, for the sailor, seats embedded with ropes, knots

Pit Stop features chequered flags and tiny mechanics' tools, while for the railways enthusiast there are train carriages, tracks, signals and locomotives.

"Cost depends on the items to be cast," says Mr Brophy. "The classical music seat is our second most expensive at £385 because all the instruments have to be plated with 24carat gold. We were asked to make one with penguins in it, but we had to first find our penguins. We've also made a seat with CD covers in it for a Rory Gallagher fan."

Prices begin at £200 and go up to £450 for the Time Off In Lieu seat which has wristwatches cast in the Lucite acrylic. Most seats are in limited and numbered editions of 500.

So popular have the designs be-



produce matching wall tiles and

London-based Instrumental Furniture also caters for the musically inclined bathroom designer. It produces a viola-shaped lavatory seat and cover at £92 plus delivery in antique pine, maple or mahogany, or, for £155, in American cherrywood.



Such individual loos are obviously wasted if you don't spend a lot of time on them. So The Holding Company has thoughtfully designed a magazine rack that fits on to the cistern, only £6.95.

Traditionalists and stately home owners are more likely to head for 0171-610 9160; Sitting Pretty 0171-381 Sitting Pretty, which produces seats 0049; Aquatic Design 0171-636 6388.

in mahogany, beech, sycamore, elm and oak, which start at £125 plus VAT The company has just begun to make a range with a mirror finish for the foreign market, which apparently prefers shiny loo seats. But they also sell the classic Victorian-style thunderbox throne seat and any may be adorned with a monogram or coat of arms.

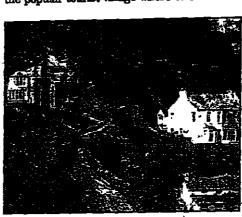
Too conventional? Well there's always Aquatic Design, the company that can put a fish tank almost anywhere you'd like one. They'll accept commissions to fit a fish tank cistern which uses fresh water from a separate flushing tank. The fish are most likely to be cold-water fish such as goldfish. Depending on the amount of work involved, the cost starts at £600.

Chatsworth Bathrooms 01695 559874; Screwy Loos 01782 719120; Instrumental Furniture 0171-328 0058; The Holding Company mail order

THREE TO VIEW

GO WITH THE FLOW

MONT ST PIERRE, on Chapel Cliff, above the Cornish fishing village of Polperro, has bay windows in the sitting room and main bedroom above, both with views across the sea. From the front of the house, the views are of the harbour and village. Its position. on the cliff makes it one of the most photographed properties in the popular tourist village where streets are so narrow that cars



four-bedroom house sitting in terraced gar dens has a 17ft reception half. large kitchenbreakfast room beamed ceil ings and some wood-panelled walls. The price. guide is £250,000 through Alder King (01563

1 ELM CORNER in Dunsfold, Surrey, is a grade II listed cottage overlooking the village pond and green. Built around 1600, the semidetached cottage was part of the old school house and has a detached office, formerly the village bakery. Dunsfold itself has a 13th-century church, village store and pub. The house has three

bedrooms with beamed ceilings, a 24ft draw-ing room with inglenook fireplace and a pretty cottage garden with a small orchard. working well and pump. Ofaround £275,000 through Clarke Gammon (01483 417131).



ROCK COTTAGE, sitting between the village church and the walls of Amberley Castle in West Sussex, has views out across the village pond to wild brooks where Bewick and Hooper swans gather in winter. The grade II listed four-bedroom house has two staircases, having been two homes in the 17th century. The stone, brick and flint house with thatched roof features in local



kitchen diningroom with open. fireplace and exposed brickwork. Outside gardens with lavender, roses, apple and pear trees. Price guide £280,000

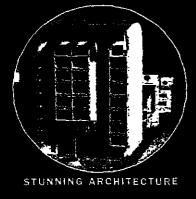
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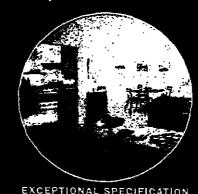
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